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SOMETHIN[G] FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER.

Not the hired manager, not the ser[vant] but the wife and mother who governs her own household—the typical housekeeper of the American home. Newspapers have not wholly neglected her. Yet, though there are few things that she has no wish to do, or is unable to afford, which they do not tell her how to do, they are generally silent or worse about what she really needs to know. Recipes for new and mysterious dishes, hints about dress, directions for housefurnishing, suggestions for extravagant or quaint ornamentation, which when followed are disappointing and usually result in an increase of expenses that the average housekeeper cannot afford, are furnished in abundance; but sensible instructions, given in an interesting way. regarding the food she is in the habit of providing, the clothing she and her family are accustomed to wear, the kind of furniture that may fall within her means when she needs new furniture, the character of ornaments in which she dare indulge, are not so plentiful. This is especially true of papers that interest the masculine members of her household. Unless she takes a paper expressly devoted to housekeeping affairs, she must plod on as best she can, ignorant of new economies in her line of labor. For fashions in dress she may rely upon the dressmaker, and for fashions in furniture upon the dealer; but for knowledge of discoveries in the preparation of food, and for taste in dress, in furnishing. and in ornamentation, she is left to her own judgment, unaided by suggestions from any source that commands her confidence. And why should she take a paper devoted to housekeeping? Such papers, if they give her the information she desires, are padded with matter to which she is indifferent. Why should she not find in the paper that interests her husband, her sons, or her brothers, and perhaps herself also, the one thing she needs as a housekeeper? She should. And that the housekeepers in free trade and single tax families may be accommodated in this respect, without adding the cost of a special paper on household affairs to their expenses, we have engaged from one of the most competent and entertaining writers on the subject a series of articles on household economies, as complete and trustworthy and at the same time as readable as any that appear in the best special papers. These articles will make no attempt to revolutionize the household. To profit by them it will not be necessary to buy a better house, dearer furniture and clothing, or different food. Nor will they describe fantastical devices for supplying bounteous tables at trifling expense. They will offer simple, common sense advice, calculated to enable thrifty housekeepers to live in every way better than now with the same materials and at the same expense. The writer of these articles will also answer any questions within the scope of her subject. To extend the circulation of this paper, and promote its general objects, we will take subscriptions, from new subscribers only, for One Dollar for the remainder of this year, and to each such subscriber we will make a present of his choice from the following list of books: "Protection or Free Trade?" "Progress and Poverty," "Social Problems," "The Land Question," and "The Reply to Pope Leo XIII.", by Henry George. The regular subscription price is Three Dollars a Year, and with regular subscriptions premiums are given in accordance with the following terms:

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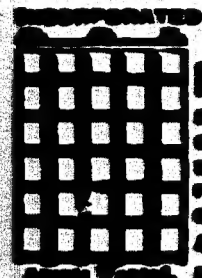

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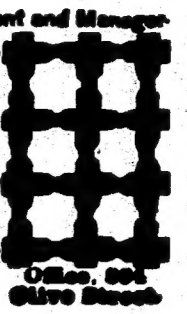

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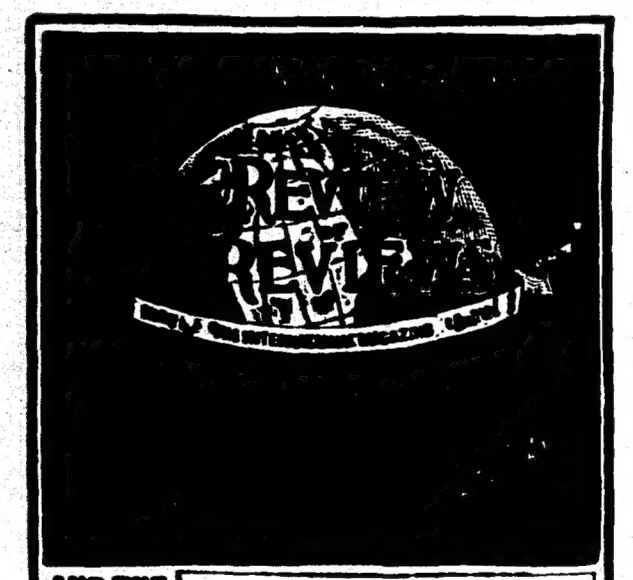

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Dated New York, March 8th, 1892.

L. A. WRAY,
Assignee,

ROBERTSONS & HARMON,
Attorneys for Assignee.

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER MADE BY HON. ROGER A. PRYOR, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the City and County of New York, on the 24th day of February, 1892, notice is hereby given to all creditors and persons having claims against Charles H Kohlhaas, lately doing business in the City and County of New York, that they are required to present their claims, with the vouchers therefor, duly verified, to the subscriber, the duly appointed substituted assignee of said Charles H Kohlhaas, for the benefit of creditors, at his place of transacting business, Nos. 49 and 51 Chambers street, in the City of New York, on or before the 23d day of May, 1892.

Dated New York, February 24th, 1892.

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JOHN E BRODSKY,
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THE STANDARD

VOL. XI. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1892. No. 13.

THE FUTILIST.—A comic paper is not exactly the place to look for serious and sound opinions about public affairs; but the editorial columns of Puck, under the management of H. C. Bunner, make that paper an exception. In those columns Mr. Bunner has now contributed a new word to the language, and justified its adoption by an argument as true in its facts and correct in its conclusions as it is bright and witty in style.

"Futilist" is the word. "A 'futilist' is one," says Mr. Bunner, "who preaches, professes, or practices deliberate futility in public affairs." He is generally a person of intelligence and education, and in many of the affairs of life is a person of fair mind and judgment; but in public affairs the taint of futilism comes out and makes him a curse to his fellow men. Though most conspicuous at the time of a national election, municipal matters keep him objectionably active in futilism between times, and it is only when real, hard, plain, common-sense political work is to be done, that he is not at hand. Then he dawdles at his club. The men who do the hard work are sitting in close committee rooms, toiling half the night to draw up intricate and perplexing bills, or to select the best available candidate out of crowds of jealous claimants; but when they bring their work before the public, and the "futilist" reads about it in his evening paper, "it takes him the space of one fleeting second to note the imperfections in the measure that has been framed and reframed a hundred times, and to judge the unfitness of the man who has been selected after months of diplomatic discussion as the only possible compromise candidate. Then is the futilist on deck. He leaps high into the still atmosphere of the club, and he yells, 'Outrageous!'" In conclusion, Mr. Bunner observes that the "futilist" is altogether "a citizen who triumphantly achieves his chosen end of perfect uselessness, and who excites in other citizens something of that interest which rabbits excite in a farming country."

This is not exactly a discovery, since the "futilist" is a familiar nuisance to all public-spirited citizens; but we are now furnished with a convenient and suggestive term for that well-meaning class, from whose half ripe judgment and ill-timed activity no movement is ever spared.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S QUEER NOTION.—Senator John Sherman is reported as having said that two-thirds of the voters in cities pay no taxes and have the benefit of the savings of the other third. Mr. Sherman would find it somewhat difficult to make his assertion good. Under our system of indirect taxation, no one wholly escapes, and a large class, which Mr. Sherman doubtless includes among the non-taxpayers, pay far more taxes in proportion to their means and to the benefits they derive from government than most people whom he regards as taxpayers.

Indirect taxation falls upon food. upon clothing, upon house rent. Is it possible that two-thirds of the voters in cities go without food, without clothing, and without houses? However that may be in the cities of Mr. Sherman's state of Ohio, it is not true of the cities of New York. There are in New York, as in all other cities, a a small class, commonly spoken of as "taxpayers," who draw the checks with which the bulk of taxes are paid. They are largely owners of real estate. To the extent that their taxes fall upon the value of their building lots they are taxpayers, for those taxes they cannot collect from any one else. But to the extent that the taxes they pay fall upon houses, excepting their own dwellings, and upon business plants and stocks of goods, these "taxpayers" are only tax collectors, for whatever they pay into the pubiic treasury they collect back, with interest added, from their tenants and customers.

It is a common error to suppose that people who do not settle at the tax office are not taxpayers. It is a dangerous error, for it leaves upon a large proportion of the people the impression that however badly government may be administered it is no affair of theirs. It is with the mass of thoughtless people an excusable error, however, since the mass of people are apt to be thoughtiess; but such an excuse is not valid in favor of men who regard themselves and are regarded by their fellow citizens as fit to sit in the United States Senate.

FREE COINAGE.—It is altogether probable that the free coinage question has been disposed of for the present session, and that all danger of shifting the issue in the approaching Presidential election from tariff to silver is over.

The Bland bill was a special order last week, and after full debate Mr. Bland's motion for the previous question on its passage was superseded by a motion to lay the bill on the table. The latter motion promised an advantage to the anti-silver men. Members who, while favoring free coinage were opposed to confusing it with the tariff issue, might vote to table when they would not vote against the bill. Speaker Crisp saw this, of course, and in the spirit of partisanship that characterized his rulings throughout, he at first declared the motion out of order; but the rules were so plain that he was obliged to reverse himself. Including his own vote, he announced a tie, 148 to 148; and there not being a majority in the affirmative the motion to table was lost.

Tom L. Johnson, who voted against tabling for the purpose of being in a position to move a reconsideration if necessary, promptly carried this purpose out, and his motion to reconsider was carried. Again the question arose on the motion to table, and this time it was lost by 145 to 148. Another motion to reconsider was ruled out of order under general parliamentary procedure, which forbids two motions to reconsider the same question.

But Mr. Bland did not carry his motion for the previous question. Dilatory proceedings delayed him until the House was without a quorum, when he allowed an adjournment. This terminated the legislative day, and the silver bill lost its precedence. The committee on rules may make it a special order for another day, but the opposition in the Democratic party was so much stronger than the friends of the bill expected that this possibility is at present a doubtful one. The committee refuses to put it in a position for early passage unless a majority of the Democratic members request it, and even Mr. Bland has no confidence that the condition can be complied with. Thus is removed from the field of current politics the one question that has threatened the supreme issue of protectoin or free trade.

OUR DISPUTE WITH ENGLAND.—The Behring Sea controversy between the United States and Great Britain now hinges upon the question of restraining seal fishing pending arbitration. This question is incidental to the main dispute, and was well adapted for a pretext to the jingo party of each country, on the eve of general elections in which their political fortunes are at stake, to raise bad blood between friendly peoples.

The part of Behring Sea over which this international dispute arises is bounded on the west by the Russian line, which runs northeasterly from a point somewhat west of the Aleutian Islands to a point slightly east of East Cape—the easternmost point of Siberia—and thence due north to the Arctic Ocean: on the north by the Arctic Ocean; on the east by Alaska territory; and on the south by the Aleutian Islands. In 1867, the United States having recognized the sovereignty of Russia over all this sea north of the Aleutian Islands, acquired jurisdiction by purchase over the part described above, which includes the Probyloff Islands in the middle of Behring Sea. Since the purchase, the United States has leased the right of seal fishery to private corporations; and such a lease is now in force to a corporation in which the Secretary of War, Mr. Elkins, is said to be interested.

Neither the claim of Russia prior to the purchase, nor that of the United States thereafter, seems to have been practically questioned until about six years ago, when certain Canadian ship-owners began to intercept the herds of seal as they passed back and forth from their breeding grounds on the Probyloff Islands. It was admitted by the Canadians that the breeding grounds were within the jurisdiction of the United States, and that seal fishing within three miles of all shores was exclusively under the control of our government; but they claimed that all the waters of Behring Sea beyond three miles from every shore were part of the high seas, and that seals taken there were therefore the property of the taker—in other words that those waters were common hunting grounds for all nations. Against this claim the United States raised two objections: first, that Behring Sea is a closed sea, and within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States over its entire surface; and, second, that as the seals were in the habit of breeding on land belonging to the United States, they were United States property, and that it was contrary to international comity for the people of other nations to kill them, when they were passing between their breeding and feeding grounds, even if found on the high seas.

It was in this view of our rights, about a year ago, that the United States seized Canadian vessels on the open waters of the sea, more than three miles from any shore, and instituted proceedings to condemn them as poachers. For the purpose of testing the question in our tribunals, Great Britan began a suit in the Supreme Court of the United States to restrain our Alaska court, taking the ground that we had no jurisdiction to condemn a foreign vessel for taking seals on the high seas more than three miles from land.

This case raised the whole question in dispute between the two countries; but as the Supreme Court decided it upon a technicality, without considering the merits, the international dispute was left just where it was before.

Meantime, a diplomatic controversy was in progress, which resulted in a treaty to arbitrate the differences between the two countries. Although the treaty has not been ratified, it was until a few days ago supposed that the whole dispute would be amicably adjusted: but when it was proposed by our government to renew for this season the agreement of last, that both nations prohibit the catching of seals except in limited numbers for a specified and obviously necessary purpose, Lord Salisbury declined, urging that if sealing were prohibited pending the arbitration British sealers who were excluded would have ground of complaint if the British claim should be upheld by the arbitrators. He suggested that sealing in Behring Sea should continue on condition that the owner of every sealing vessel give security for satisfying any damages which the arbitrators might adjudge. The President replied, in what has been characterized as "a peppery letter," declining to discuss the suggestion that individual sealers give bonds to answer in damages as one which he found it difficult to regard as seriously made, and pointing out that the continuance of sealing by the Canadians, if it did not destroy the rights of the United States would at least largely defeat the objects of the treaty. He broadly hinted, also, that if England should proceed during the arbitration upon its contention that Behring Sea is common sealing ground, no choice would be left to the government of the United States but to seize British vessels engaged in invading what it regarded as its jurisdiction and property rights. He added that nothing short of the agreement of last year would be acceptable to the United States. Lord Salisbury, in response, agrees that when the treaty shall have been ratified both parties must defer, pending the arbitration, to the claims of the other; and he proposes that an arrangement similar to that of last year be made, provided that the government of the United States consent that the arbitrators, in the event of a decision adverse to it, shall assess the damages which the intermediate prohibition of sealing may have inflicted on British sealers, and in the event of a decision adverse to Great Britain, that they assess the damages which such prohibition may have inflicted on the United States or its lessees.

The responsibility, if a friendly settlement fails, is now upon the United States. The treaty of arbitration has not yet been ratified, and until it shall have been we are in no position to demand a suspension of sealing in waters which the other party to the controversy claims to be common sealing ground. And if, after ratifying the treaty, we demand a suspension of sealing pending the arbitration, it is a perfectly equitable condition of compliance with our demand that we agree, if our position be not sustained, to compensate the party whose rights we shall have placed in suspension by our unfounded claim. When the opposing party offers a reciprocal agreement, for us to reject his proposal is to confess that our contention is not made in good faith. The probabities are that the condition will be accepted and the arbitration treaty ratified.

Our case on the merits is by no means a strong one. When it is remembered that Behring Sea is over 2,000 miles across at the mouth, and that it is closed only by a scattered chain of islands, which falls hundreds of miles short of connecting the opposite mainlands, our contention that this is a closed sea has a somewhat gauzy appearance. Nothing can be urged in its support except the efforts of Great Britain in other parts of the world to exercise jurisdiction over the sea beyond the three-mile limit—efforts which have been successful because the encroachments were felt only by powers that could not resist her with arms. To regard such acts of irresponsible brute force as precedents in international arbitration is to deprive arbitration of its highest attribute—that of securing *rights* regardless of power.

Nor has our government laid stress upon the closed sea contention. In one of his letters in the course of the diplomatic controversy last year, Mr. Blaine asserted that our government had never claimed that Behring Sea is a closed sea, but had rested its contention, among other grounds, upon the proposition that it had full authority for going beyond the three-mile limit in case of proved necessity. This means that, as we own the islands on which seals breed, the seals are our property, and that they do not cease to be our property while passing between breeding grounds and feeding grounds, even though in the passage they cross water which forms part of the high seas. That contention has less merit, if possible, than the other. It involves a consideration, however, which demands the attention of all civilized nations. To permit the indiscriminate slaughter of these animals while migrating is to expose the entire species to early extinction, something which it is to the interest of all nations to prevent. A fair treaty regulating the taking of seals on the high seas should commend itself to the generosity and good sense of every people. But that is a very different thing from a claim on our part of property rights in wild animals no matter where found, when based on nothing more substantial than

PRESENTATION OF THE SINGLE TAX PETITION.—As will be seen by the report of Mr. Leavens, published this week in the department of single tax news, the single tax petition is now ready, and only awaits the opportunity which Congressman Tom L. Johnson will endeavor to secure for its presentation to the House. The petition has been collected during the past two years, and has over 115,000 signers. It prays for the appointment of "a special committee for the purpose of making a full inquiry into and report upon the expediency of raising all public revenues by a single tax upon the value of land, irrespective of improvements, to the exclusion of all other taxes, whether in the form of tariffs upon imports, taxes upon internal productions, or otherwise."

This petition has served the single tax movement most admirably. It has furnished many an opportunity for explaining the single tax to men who did not understand it, and whose interest was first excited by a request to sign; and thousands of conversions can be traced to the work it has in this way already done. And it can be made still more useful by a little extra but not very irksome effort. The petition asks for nothing that is not reasonable and conservative. It does not call for the adoption of the single tax. All it calls for is an official investigation of that method of raising public revenues. To this every fair-minded Congressman ought to be willing to agree, whatever may be his own opinion on the question of taxation. That question is unsettled. Legislative bodies annually struggle over it in some form, and no one will pretend that anything like a principle has ever yet guided legislative action on the subject. What better course, then, could Congress adopt than to make a systematic inquiry? It is not necessary to confine the inquiry to the merits of the single tax. Let Congress, if it wishes, empower its committee to inquire into any system that may be advocated before it, or that it may choose to investigate of its own motion.

The way in which single tax advocates, either "limited" or "unlimited," can make this petition further useful is to write to their own Congressman, and to such other Congressmen as they may be acquainted with, calling attention to the expected presentation of the petition, and asking their assistance in securing a Congressional inquiry into methods and systems of taxation. We earnestly urge every friend of this paper, and every advocate of systematic reform in taxation whether a friend of the paper or not, and whether a single tax man or not, to write to one or more Congressmen at once, appealing in the strongest possible manner for some such step as we propose in the direction of ascertaining the principles pursuant to which public revenues should be levied, and of establishing a systematic method for their collection.

BRIGHTER POLITICAL OUTLOOK.—So completely has the Chemung adventurer vanquished himself, it is now a fair prediction that the name of Hill will not be even presented in the Chicago convention. This, however, is hardly remarkable. Barnum, the prince of humbugs, always insisted that a humbug must be a failure as well as a fraud, if not supplemented with something genuine and worth the price of admission. Hill never had any political capital but his ingenuity in making combinations among party spoilsmen. Had he united the intellectual qualities of a statesman with the ethical qualities of a head "heeler," which he possesses in such a high degree, he would have been a dangerous factor in the coming campaign; but the moment he undertook to discuss national questions he exposed such amazing ignorance and narrowness, and withal, such abject helplessness in his wordy warfare with ideas, that he was incontinently laughed off the stage.

The same sentiment that condemns Hill has exalted Cleveland. No two public men could be more unlike. All that either is, the other is not. Cleveland has none of the sinuosity in which Hill takes pride and on which he has relied; Hill has none of the blunt honesty and straightforward courage which have commended Cleveland to independents and clean-minded Democrats, and won him the respect of fair-minded opponents of all parties. When Hill speaks it is either in riddles which are not intended to be understood by others, or in muddled English which he cannot understand himself; when Cleveland speaks his meaning is never misapprehended. Hill represents one side of all that is dishonest, tricky, treacherous, selfish, criminal, and otherwise bad in American politics, of which men like Quay and Davenport are the larger and the lesser representatives on the other side; Cleveland represents one side of all that is candid, disinterested, patriotic, and generally good in purpose, of which McKinley and Bland are representatives on other sides. These two representative men—Hill and Cleveland—have come in collision in their own party, and not only has Hill been annihilated by the shock, but Cleveland stands stronger than ever the chosen leader of more than half the people.

There is no longer a reasonable doubt as to the Democratic nomination. Hill's supporters are already turning their attention to other candidates, while his opponents, who until recently were wasting enthusiasm over favorite sons, are everywhere concentrating upon Cleveland. With the downfall of Hill, so quickly followed by

the general recognition of Cleveland's great popularity, both in the columns of the Democratic press and the resolutions of Democratic conventions, and with the probable postponement of the free coinage diversion, which makes the tariff question beyond peradventure the one issue of the approaching campaign, the prospects of the Democratic party were never brighter than at this moment. Everything points now to a contest of Harrison and protection against Cleveland and free trade. In such a contest, with such candidates, on such an issue, the result will surprise both sides. The people have a better understanding of the issue now than they had four years ago—better than they had even two years ago; and free trade is no longer an epithet that frightens them. The doctrine that wages are raised by increasing the profits of employers, that farmers are made prosperous by subsidizing home markets and cutting off foreign customers, that manufacturing is encouraged by burdening it with high-priced or inferior materials, that business is boomed by burdening consumption, that high taxes are lightened by masking them in the prices of commodities, that crooked taxation is better than straight, is fast passing away; and the party that, seeing this radical change in public sentiment, puts forth principles in harmony with it, in a manner that cannot be misunderstood, and endorses the principles with a nomination that commands respect and confidence, will sweep the country next fall as the Republicans swept it when at the close of the war the Democratic party trifled with the just public sentiment of that time.

HENRY GEORGE AS A JUROR.—We published an account last week of a difference of opinion between Henry George and the presiding judge in a recent trial at New York. Some of the newspapers have commented upon the subject, but apparently without any knowledge of what the facts imply. When all the evidence had been introduced, the judge directed the jury to find a verdict for the defendant. It seemed to Mr. George, who had been sworn as one of the jurors in the case, and was foreman, that the merits were entirely with the plaintiff, and he refused assent. For this "contumacy" he was by the judge discharged from further service. The verdict was entered for the defendant, however, notwithstanding Mr. George's non-concurrence, for the assent of the jury was really not required, the order directing a verdict being only a matter of form. A similar incident occurred in the same court about a score of years ago, when the juror who refused to render a directed verdict was fined for contempt; but in that case the presiding judge had the decency to explain the nature of a directed verdict before holding the juror to account.

The practice of directing verdicts is a mile-post along the highway of judicial encroachments upon the functions of the jury. Juries once decided cases; now they decide nothing but disputed facts, questions of law being left to the judge. So, when all the evidence is presented, if upon the undisputed facts it appears to the judge that the law gives the case to one party or the other, he decides accordingly. But while the substance of the jury's power has thus been taken from it, the form of this lost power is retained. The judge who really renders the decision gives it the form of a verdict. And since the judge, and not the jury, controls the judgment, it is not of the slightest importance whether the jury assents or not. Nor do the jurors act upon their oaths. They do not act at all.

Had this been explained to Mr. George he would doubtless, as he has since said he would, have silently allowed the procedure to take its course. But the presiding judge happened to be more of a martinet than a judge, a man who rather enjoys the dictatorial powers of his position, and without any explanation other than a curt statement that the responsibility was upon him and not upon Mr. George, he struck the name of the conscientious juror from his list.

Through ignorance of an absurd and misleading professional formality, Mr. George fell into a technical error; but he performed his duty as a juror whether the judge performed his as a magistrate or not. Mr. George was under oath—his oath, not the judge's—to render a true verdict, not according to the judge's direction, but according to the evidence; and the justice of the case seemed plainly to him to be with the plaintiff. In these circumstances his astonishment may well be understood when he was ordered, as if he had been an office-boy instead of a juror, to violate his oath and outrage his conscience by rendering a verdict for the defendant. Had he been a docile juror, such as incongruous formalities like this of directing verdicts are calculated to produce, he would have bowed in meek silence to the wish of the judge, as jurors have fallen into the habit of doing; but, moved by his own sense of responsibility, he refused to allow any one to keep his conscience for him. In this he was perfectly right. More jurors like him would send a refreshing breeze through the moldy and not altogether odorous corridors of justice.

It would be well if the law regarding the direction of verdicts were changed. There is no objection to leaving the decision of questions of law to the judges; but the form of rendering judgment should be consistent with its substance. If it is the decision of the judge, let it so appear on the record; if the verdict of the jury, let that appear. When juries go through the form of assenting to the verdict of the judge their real functions are obscured. To require them to appear to render verdicts contrary to their own judgment, simply because the judge so directs, is to educate jurors to suppose that they are subordinate to the judge, and must follow his winks, and smiles, and smirks, and verbal hints, as well as his positive orders.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXATION.

BENJAMIN DOBLIN.

It is a vulgar error, common even with some professors of political economy, that good government increases the value of all property. This is but a half truth. Good government increases the value of land, and of land alone, and tends rather to decrease the value of other property. If it were true that personal property is enhanced in value by reason of good government, the absence of good government ought to depress its value; yet, during the war, when Government was not in a position to give security to personal property, or at any rate as good security as it gave when not at war, personal property from the farm and the factory was higher in value, as compared with land, which fell in value in proportion to the inability of Government to protect it.

The very worst that could happen would be the failure of government to protect property in any degree, in which event land values would shrink to the value of land in the Congo, while personal property would move to a place of security and rise in value where not protected. Corn in Africa is worth more than corn in any of our municipalities; land in Africa, however, can be purchased by the mile for less than the price of United States acreage. When Africa becomes settled, and the inhabitants are secured by good government in the making and trading of things, land alone will be enhanced in value: when diffused intelligence and improvement in the methods of agriculture result in decreasing the cost of production, the greater part of the advantage is almost immediately absorbed in land values.

In cities and villages, it is said, police regulations and courts and officials are mainly for the protection of personal property. It is concluded from this that personal property should bear the burden of taxation. But, after *all*, taxes must be paid in personal property. There is nothing else that government will take. The question in dispute is, which is the most expedient way in which to take it? Since the benefits of government are more largely enjoyed in cities and villages, personal property in cities and villages, if the theory were true that governmental protection adds value to personal property, ought to be of a higher value than personal property on the farm; but is the value of corn, clocks, potatoes or chairs any higher in cities and villages than on farms? Is it not rather the land which is more valuable? New York City has the best organized machinery of any place in the United States for the protection of property; yet farmers and mechanics from all over the Union find it to their advantage to make their purchases there. But a lot 18x50 feet in New York City is worth two country farms. Why? Because the protection of government is so perfect that personal property from everywhere gravitates to the city, and the competition among the owners reduces its value to the lowest possible point: while the competition of the same people for land on which to traffic in their personal property sends its value up to an inordinately high figure.

But a most important fact, generally overlooked, is that you cannot devise a tax on personal property that can be collected. It has been tried repeatedly. The rack and the thumbscrews have even been used, but, as history records, with little success. New York City pays on comparatively less personal property than the majority of agricultural counties; if a stringent personal property tax law were enacted it would pay less. When wealth can not successfully be hidden, it runs away, and, as a result, real estate values fall.

That every act of good government but tends to increase the value of land while decreasing the value of personal property is evident upon the most superficial reflection. Let us suppose that the authorities of an agricultural county should decide to build and operate gas and water works, agreeing to supply the residents of such county without charge; that they should also build macadam-

and roads, organize a paid and specially skilled fire department, establish free schools, the best in the State—would all that increase the value of corn, bricks, or lumber? Would it not rather increase the value of land?

Every improvement and every advance in civilization and the consequent accumulation of wealth at points where improvement and civilization are greatest, are almost perfectly reflected in the land values of that particular point. Therefore, it is at those points that personal property can be most certainly collected by government, without danger of evasion or fraud, provided the tax is assessed upon the values of land instead of the values of the personal property. In the cities and villages, where personal property is present in greatest quantities, there also are land values highest. On Fifth avenue and in Wall street in New York City are gathered the wealthiest men and the largest amounts of personal property. There also is where the highest value attaches to land.

If the farmer would equalize taxation, he must exempt personal property and improvements. The wealthy farmer will be found in most cases to owe his wealth to the more valuable land from which he derives it. If he resides in a village, the land on which he erects his more pretentious house is more valuable than the surrounding land; and the greater his expenditure for personal gratification the more will he stimulate business, and the more business is stimulated the greater will be the demand for a site on which to conduct its operations. As an inevitable result land values would rise and the cost of supplies decrease.

The only way in which the rich man can dodge his proper and just proportion of the burdens of government, under the land value tax, is by owning no valuable land nor any interest in valuable land, and refraining from spending or using his wealth. Such a man would soon have no wealth.

Benjamin Doblin was born in 1864 in New York City, and has ever since resided there. He was educated in the public schools, and has been in business with A. D. Engleman—another single taxer—since 1889.

Until 1885 Mr. Doblin was a Republican protectionist, but he was then converted by "Progress and Poverty," and entering the United Labor party in 1886 he became a member of the Single Tax Cleveland and Thurman Committee in 1888. He is now provisional secretary of the County Home Rule Taxation League, chairman of the Agitation Committee of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, treasurer of the Single Tax Propaganda Association, and vice president of the General Committee of the Democratic Free Trade League.

THE SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA.

JOHN FARRELL.

SYDNEY, N. S. Wales, January 24.—The month that has passed since I last wrote has not brought to us any very large or unexpected political event. On the 12th Parliament re-assembled after the Christmas vacation, and almost immediately proceeded with the second reading of the Customs Duties bill, which was ultimately carried by a majority of fourteen votes. The debate was conducted without any special vigor on the protectionist side, as the result, owing to the traitorous action of the sixteen defaulting labor members, was a foregone conclusion. The opposition speeches, also, with some exceptions, were weak. One of these exceptions was the vigorous and logical attack upon protection and revenue-tariffism, made by Mr. Frank Cotton. Mr. Cotton, who is well-known throughout New South Wales as one of the earliest and most able advocates of the single tax, was returned at the head of the poll for Newtown, a suburb of the metropolis, at the general election, his colleagues being another pronounced single tax man and two revenue tariffists. Since then he has made some excellent speeches in the House and out of it, and is rapidly coming to the front.

Altogether the single tax section gave a very good account of themselves in the debate. Never before in any Australian Parliament were principles so clearly enunciated or mere clap-trap demagogism so completely dispensed with. There has been a manifest advance in sound economic knowledge made of late by some of the old members. Others of them can feel the change of thought outside, and without thinking very deeply on the subject, echo what they hear. Of each of these one might say, as the scornful Lynette said of Prince Gareth:

"Lord, how like a knight he talks!
The listening knave has caught the manner of it."

You can hardly tell some of them from single taxers, unless you happen to find out in conversation how little they really know about the subject. But it is very plain that many are perfectly ready to fall in with the views of the constituencies, whatever they may be. And the progress of the single tax idea among the people is visible to even the most careless observer. It has been accelerated greatly by the split in the labor party. The renegade section, of course, has its supporters, chiefly those among the labor bodies with protectionist leanings. Between these and the consistent supporters of what is really the single tax platform of the Labor Electoral League, there has been a great deal of controversy and discussion, all of which is bearing fruit. Efforts have been made, and are still being made, to effect a reunion of the divided halves of the party; but nothing can logically come of it.

The single tax question, in fact, has now reached the fighting stage here. The Star, the one special protectionist paper, devotes very much space to opposing it in every conceivable way. One day the existence of a single tax party is denied, and the upholders of land value taxation are derided as isolated cranks; while on the next it is claimed that public meetings are everywhere being packed and Labor Electoral League branches swamped with them. The simple truth is that a very large percentage of the city members of the labor bodies, and in some cases a distinct majority of those in the country districts, are single tax men. There will inevitably be a considerable addition made to the single tax membership of Parliament at the next election, whenever it may occur, and the longer it is delayed the greater will be the revulsion from the protective measure which it is now attempted to fasten upon us. The single tax leagues throughout the colony are working quietly, but none the less effectively. The annual meeting of the central branch at Sydney was held last week, and a report submitted which showed financial soundness and good prospects for the future after a year of solid work and progress. Mr. Frank Cotton was elected president.

In New Zealand our party has just scored what is perhaps the most remarkable and encouraging victory ever yet won in the name of progress in these colonies. At Wellington one of the seats secured by a labor member at the general election was rendered vacant by his resignation. For this seat the opposition nominated Mr. Bell, a son of Sir F. Dilhon Bell, lately Agent-General for New Zealand. Mr. Bell, who is mayor of the capital city, an extremely able and popular man, and the leading barrister of the colony, had with him wealth and all its influences. Every interest which has been scared by the radical movements of the new element in local politics, and its steady march in the direction of the single tax, stood behind him. His opponent, Mr. McLean, a single tax man, who was beaten at the last election, was supported by the Government. From one end of the colony to the other the contest was watched with breathless interest as the first test struggle that has taken place since the present Government assumed office, and a fight to the death. By a substantial majority, the exact numbers of which we have not yet received, Mr. McLean secured the seat. The significance of that win is not to be estimated, embodying, as it does, an endorsement from the metropolis of the Government policy, against which there has been such outcry in certain quarters.

And just as I write, the following dispatch from Adelaide appears in the morning papers: "The election of a representative of East Adelaide in the House of Assembly resulted in the return of the labor candidate, Mr. J. A. McPherson, who polled 1,200 votes, his opponent, Mr. C. S. Fowler, gaining only 1,026. Excitement throughout the day ran very high, and when the result was made known Mr. McPherson was carried shoulder high from the Democratic Club to the Town Hall, where he addressed the crowd. He said his return was not a personal matter, but a victory for democracy, which would soon spread to the other colonies."

PROTECTED VICTORIA.

FREDERIC T. HODGKISS.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, January 16.—A few words from a single taxer, lately of New York State, and now in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, may prove interesting. Here, as elsewhere, protection fails to fulfil the expectations of its friends. At present the condition of trade is deplorable. Masses of unemployed men are holding daily meetings, theatres are giving benefits in their interest, and last Saturday, in one district alone, bread and meat was distributed free to about 2,000 people. Protection, however, despite its breakdown as a universal work-provider, appears to be all-powerful, a proposed heavy stock tax on cattle from the adjoining colonies, and an export duty on hides, being among the latest developments. Free trade, as an issue, seems to be as dead as it was in the United States a few years back, and single tax has but a feeble hold on the public mind. But time works marvels. With protection discredited, and a rising feeling against land booms, large estates, and the continual alienation of the public lands, it is easy to foretell our eventual triumph. Politics are complicated. The next election takes place in April, and there are four or five parties in the field. The Labor party hopes to return several members. One of its planks demands the taxation of land values.

Federation is at a complete standstill. The masses in Victoria are sturdily opposed to it till the "one man, one vote" act has been passed, the contention being that unless this is first done the new constitution will be framed in the interests of the great land owners (here called squatters) and the wealthy corporations.

Mr. Max Hirsch, with an able surrounding of bright and devoted men, is working hard in our cause. Town councils are having pointed out to them the virtues of single tax as a cure for the vacant lot evil, a few open-air meetings are being held, and literature is being spread abroad. Do not be discouraged with us in Victoria. The false idols are being shattered, for the spirit of truth is spreading.

It may interest some single taxers to hear that in one district here, the storekeepers in the principal streets are about to subsidize the cab drivers; and soon, intending customers will be carried to town from the subsurbs for the nominal charge of two cents.

MR. POWDERLY IN BROOKLYN.

On the 13th of April, at 8 P. M., General Master Workman Powderly will talk about the platform of the Knights of Labor at the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Academy of Music. The admission fee is twenty-five cents.

A HARD QUESTION.

Hamilton (Can.) Evening Times.

If it is not stealing to exempt from taxation the furniture worth $4,000 in a house worth $3,000, built upon a lot worth $1,000, thus leaving the house and lot to serve as the basis of taxation, how can it be stealing to exempt the house as well as the furniture, and leave the land alone as the basis of taxation?

EXCLUSION THE CORRELATIVE OF MONOPOLY.

Douglas Co. (Wash.) Democrat.

The Spokane Review wishes that Henry George's system of land tenure had been in force in Spokane, so that the right of way could certainly have been secured for the Great Northern. Its wish will be gratified some day. That one man's monopoly means another man's exclusion is as true of land monopoly as any other, and the fewer the monopolies the better for the community.

SINGLE TAX NEWS.

The Single Tax is a tax on land, regardless of its improvements and in proportion to its value. It implies the abolition of all other forms of taxation, and the collection of the public revenues from this source alone. It would be CERTAIN, because land values are most easily appraised; WISE, because, by discouraging the withdrawal of land from use and encouraging its improvement, it would expand opportunities for labor, augment wealth, and increase the rewards of industry and thrift; EQUAL, because every one would pay taxes in proportion to the value of the land, of right the common property of all, which he appropriated to his own use; and JUST, because it would fall not upon labor, enterprise, and thrift, but upon the value of a special privilege. It is more fully explained in the Single Tax Platform in another column; and in "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, every point is discussed and every objection answered.

The underlying principle of the single tax—that the earth belongs equally to all, and that the best way to secure substantial justice is to tax the occupant an amount equal to the yearly value of the land—is sound.—Journal of the Knights of Labor, September 24, 1891.

We have no hesitation in declaring our belief that the ideal taxation lies in the Single Land Tax, laid exclusively on the rental value of land, independent of improvements.—New York Times, January 10, 1891.

The best and surest subject of taxation is the thing that perforce stays in one place; that is land.—New York Sun, August 26, 1891.

Every one of these taxes [on commodities and buildings] the ostensible taxpayer—the man on the assessor's books—shifts to other shoulders. The only tax he cannot shift is the tax on his land values.—Detroit News, November 1, 1891.

The Bee does not say that it will never be a full-fledged single tax advocate. It believes in it in theory now; it pauses only on the threshold of doubt as to the expediency under existing circumstances.—Sacramento (Cal.) Bee.

The products of individual industry should remain at all times untaxed. Take the annual rental value of land without regard for improvements, no matter what it amounts to. The community could put this fund to better uses than the individual landlords.—St. Louis Chronicle.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The National Committee is carrying on the newspaper work of the Memphis committee in supplying news companies with single tax matter for their ready prints and plates, and is preparing the petition for presentation to Congress.

The excess in expenditures over receipts for running expenses of office remain as reported last week, viz:		$10 94
The special fund for preparing petition for presentation to Congress has been increased by the following contributions:		
Thos. G. Shearman, New York City	50 00	
H Martin Williams, St. Louis, Mo	10 00	
Through H. L. Pleasc (collection at meeting of San Francisco S. T. Society.)	6 25	
Harold Sudell, New Castle, Del	1 00	
Total		$67 25
Less deficit reported last week	$1 45	
Paid for electro, hardware and labor	5 63	7 08
Balance on hand March 29		$60 17

The work of preparing the petition for presentation to Congress is now completed, and as soon as Congressman Johnson gives the word, it will be forwarded to Washington.

The 115,503 petitions are bound together in 691 books, averaging about 167 petitions to the book, and the various States are represented as follows:

Alabama, 3 books; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 1; California, 46; Colorado, 14; Connecticut, 9; Delaware, 3; District of Columbia, 3; Florida, 6; Georgia, 4; Iowa, 25; Idaho, 1; Illinois, 52; Indian Territory, 3; Indiana, 10; Kansas, 15; Kentucky, 8; Louisiana, 5; Maine, 5; Maryland, 7; Mississippi, 1; Montana, 3; Massachusetts, 43; Michigan, 26; Minnesota, 19; Missouri, 38; New York, 115; Nebraska, 11; Nevada, 1; New Hampshire, 3; New Jersey, 24; New Mexico, 2; North Carolina, 1; North Dakota, 1; Ohio, 39; Oklahoma Territory, 1; Oregon, 5; Pennsylvania, 47; Rhode Island, 8; South Carolina, 1; South Dakota, 16; Tennessee, 9; Texas, 22; Utah, 2; Vermont, 3; Virginia, 5; Washington, 7; West Virginia, 5; Wisconsin, 6; Wyoming, 1; miscellaneous, 2.

The books are arranged in alphabetical order by States in compartments of the drawers of a cabinet, a cut of which is here given.

The cabinet is made of oak, stands 3 feet 6 inches in height, and is handsomely finished. The six drawers containing the petitions are 26x19x 3 inches, and black and gilt labels on the front of the drawers indicate the States represented by the petitions within. On the sloping top of the cabinet, under a heavy piece of plate glass, is mounted a photographic enlargement, 22x12 inches, of the petition as signed by Henry George, containing beneath the signature the words, "and one hundred and fifteen thousand five hundred and two [115,502] others."

GEO. ST. JOHN LEAVENS, Secretary.

LESSONS FOR ECONOMIC READING CIRCLES.

II. WHAT IS LABOR?—You have been informed that within the Circle you are to study the laws of Wealth, and you are already instructed in the meaning of that term. You are now about to learn how Wealth is produced. Man can *create* nothing. He can only *produce;* which means, regarding Wealth, that he can change the form and situation of natural substances. Grain, for example, is produced from the soil by changing the form of matter; and by changing its location, it is produced to the mill, where flour is produced from it. Thus bread is *produced* by modifying the condition of natural substances. You will observe from this illustration, and it involves an universal principle, that Wealth cannot be produced without Labor. Labor, therefore, is a factor in the production of Wealth. And it is an active factor, for such a thing as passive labor is inconceivable. But you must not be misled by common uses of the term labor. It includes not alone hired labor, but every kind of labor. All human exertion in the production of Wealth, whether the exertion of the richest employer or of the humblest servant, of the skilled or of the unskilled, is to be understood whenever the term Labor is used.

NEW YORK.

MIDDLETOWN.—Richard M. Rorty writes: It may seem strange that this city, which cast 147 votes for Mr. George, should have no permanent single tax club. It is not strange, however, to the residents of this place. We are, as rule, engrossed by the mere struggle for existence. And yet the seed has been sown, and a very large number have "seen the cat." I have no doubt, if we were called on to vote again for a candidate representing "single tax" principles that we would poll fully 300 votes.

In W. T. Doty, editor of the Orange County Farmer, published in Port Jervis, we possess an able and earnest exponent of our ideas, and his teachings reach the farmers, the most difficult class to inform on this matter which so vitally effects them. Our local journals are entirely in the power of the "Philistines" and have no independence of character. They are in the condition of the preacher who, in order not to hurt the feelings of any member of the congregation, had to "pitch into the Amalekites."

BROOKLYN.—The Brooklyn Women's Single Tax Club gave its third parlor lecture or talk at the residence of the Misses Turner on the 24th inst. There were about thirty ladies and gentlemen present, who listened to a very interesting and instructive talk on the "A B C of Taxation," by Mr. Thos. G. Shearman. The single tax in all its ramifications was explained in a terse and entertaining manner.

——The sixth class of the Monroe Circle of the Economic Reading Circle will be held in the parlors of Mrs. Elizabeth Burns Battle, 319 Monroe street, near Tompkins avenue, on Saturday evening, the 2d of April. "What is Capital?" will be discussed. Those desirous of joining the Economic Reading Circle are cordially invited to be present.

PENNSYLVANIA.

PITTSBURG.—J. B. Sharpe writes: An instance of the good effects of the recent increase in assessments came to my notice yesterday. A gentleman connected with the administration of the estate of one of our recently deceased millionaires told me that the trustees had decided to offer for sale a number of vacant lots which the dead Crœsus had held for ten or twelve years, but which the increased assessment rendered, in their judgment, no longer a profitable investment.

The tendency of taxation of the liquor traffic to develop a monopoly of its sale had another illustration at the recent opening of the license court. The attorney, who in previous years had appeared before the court with a quiver full of remonstrances, acting as the representative of the law and order league, and that element of society through which it is supposed filtrates whatever of sweetness and light penetrates the masses, was discovered to be in the employ of the liquor dealers' association, the members of which are equally as anxious as the law and order people to restrict the number of licenses granted.

Rev. Oldham, pastor of the Butler Street Methodist Church, is an able man, of rare power and earnestness. His ideas come hot from the brain, and are winged with words of charming aptness and simplicity. He recently, in his pulpit, spoke of the many distressing phases of social life in large cities, and declared that the church was losing its hold upon the great centres of population, the strategic points of modern civilization; that the heathen, the pagans of former times, no longer dwelt in the country as in the old Roman days, but were now to be found herded in the cities; that the conditions of society were becoming reversed, and that Christianity of the fairest type and sweetest influence was now to be found in the country. Last Sabbath, during the course of his sermon, he spoke of several instances of destitution and want that had come under his personal notice during the previous few days. He did not hesitate to declare his belief that there was something wrong in the social machine, and that some remedy must be found. He confessed, however, with a pathetic frankness which did credit to his intellectual honesty, that he had no solution to offer—that as yet he had found no remedy. I commend him to the attention of the letter writing corps.

Simultaneously with the posting of a notice of a 10 per cent. reduction in wages in the great blast furnace region of the Shenango and Mahoning valleys, comes the announcement of a cut of 50 cents per ton in freight rates from the Birmingham district to points north of the Ohio. The furnace men of the Shenango and Mahoning valleys are dependent upon the Connellsville field for their supply of coke, the manufacture of which is in the hands of a rigid monopoly. The Connellsville coke field is a black strip of territory, about seven miles wide by fifty miles long, lying some forty miles to the east of us. This little patch of earth supplies the greater part of the coke produced in this country, and the product is the finest in the world. The estate above referred to owns a splendid portion of this territory, but, according to the will of the testator, the hand of labor is not to be permitted to strike a pick into it during the next twenty years. Surely these workmen, who feel the tightening of the cords, ought to begin to see the connection between their growing dependence and the hide-bound monopoly of natural resources.

PHILADELPHIA.—George E. Chase writes: March 17th—The subject of discussion at the Single Tax Society was "The Advantages of Patent Rights." March 20th—Mrs. Burleigh opened the meeting by reading B. O. Flower's article in the last Arena, on the "Dead Sea of Nineteenth Century Civilization." Mr. Ferris read a paper on "The Treasury Note." March 24th

—"Natural Rights" was the subject selected, which resulted in an animated and witty discussion. Messrs. Frost, Walters, Hatzel, Stephenson, Liebman and McVicker participated, some claiming that there are certain natural rights, and others insisting that "might makes right."

At Thornbury Lyceum, Thornbury Township, Delaware County, through the efforts of Mr. Conrad Newman, a debate was arranged for March 19, on the question, "That a Tax on Rent is the Only Just Tax," in which G. F. Stephens had charge of the affirmative, and advocated the single tax before a good audience in the schoolhouse. He was opposed by a school teacher, Mr. Sweeny, an orthodox protectionist, and by Mr. Baldwin, of Glenn Mills. The debate lasted nearly two hours, and at its conclusion arrangements were made for discussing the single tax in other lyceums in the neighborhood.

At Kensington Reform Club, March 27, Dr. Stanton Coit, of London, spoke on "The Social Life of the Masses."

The Philadelphia Single Tax Society will give their third annual banquet, in celebration of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, on Wednesday evening, April 13. Music by Single Tax Orchestra and addresses by prominent speakers.

March 31, A. H. Stephenson will address the Philadelphia Single Tax Society on "Public Debts." April 2, G. F. Stephens will address the Germantown Single Tax Club on "Money." April 10, Professor Patton will address the Kensington Reform Club on "Protection." April 19, A. J. Diez will address the Germantown Single Tax Club on "National Banks." A debate on the single tax is being arranged by J. C. Frost and J. Walters to take place before the West Philadelphia Young Men's Christian Association Lyceum.

MICHIGAN.

Adrian.—L. W. Hoch has refused to accept the renomination for mayor. He would have had practically no opposition, in spite of his single tax "hobby." The work we commenced last year will be continued, and the Democrat who will in all probability succeed him is right in line with such municipal reforms as he has advocated—special assessments for paving, ownership of water works and electric light plant, etc. These questions are a decided issue this spring, and our friends will have a majority in the Council. There will also be a vote on the question of purchasing the water works, and thus getting rid of a thirty-year rental contract, which is exorbitant. Mayor Hoch has stepped aside because he will again be chosen chairman of the Democratic County Committee, and because in that capacity he can be of greater service to the cause than in any other within his reach at present.

One of our single tax friends from Springville, a thriving village in the northwestern part of this county, brings in a piece of very good news, one that can be especially commended to the attention of those who think the farmer can never be brought to the support of the single tax. The Phœnix Club of Springville is a farmers' organization which meets in the village hall every Saturday evening for the discussion of political and economic questions, the discussions being interspersed with music, reading and recitations. On the evening of March 12th the subject for discussion was, "How would the single tax affect the farmer?" Joseph Marsh, who has joined the ranks of the single taxers but recently, took the affirmative of the question, and was opposed by Mr. Marvin Ladd, one of the ablest debaters of the club. Five judges were chosen, as usual, who were to pass judgment upon the arguments of the disputants. The single tax had not been discussed before by the club, and but few of its members knew anything about the subject, except that it had caused quite a stir in the city of Adrian through the circulation of the Advance, the new single tax paper, and the controversy between Mayor Hoch and the editor of the Adrian Times. After the arguments of both parties had been made, and their points had been picked to pieces in a running discussion, in which many of the members participated, the judges retired and proceeded to agree upon a verdict. They returned in a very short time and announced that they were agreed by a unanimous vote that the points made in favor of the single tax were overwhelming and conclusive as against the objections, and that Mr. Marsh was fully entitled to the honors of the evening. The Detroit Free Press once made the observation that "it is not improbable that at a comparatively early day the farmer will be foremost among those asking for the single tax as the only method of compelling the land-owners in cities to bear their just share of the burden of taxation." And such results as this meeting of the Phœnix Club indicate that the Free Press was not much astray in its estimate.

ILLINOIS.

Chicago.—Warren Worth Bailey writes: Thus far the following gentlemen have agreed to respond to toasts at our second annual Jefferson banquet, April 13: Rev. A. J. Cleare, Rev. Joseph Adams, ex-United States Attorney Mark Bangs, Captain J. F. Waters, and John Z. White. The Rev. Mr. Cleare, who is a Swedenborgian minister, will respond to the toast "The Land Belongs in Usufruct to the Living." Other toasts have not yet been assigned. Among others who are expected to speak are S. S. Gregory, Judge Tuley, C. S. Darrow and Thomas W. Handford. The celebration promises to be a big success, and I hope that our friends will do all in their power to make it so. The programme, besides the dinner and the speeches, will include vocal and instrumental music.

Our meeting on Thursday evening was largely attended, and the exercises were highly interesting. Edward R. Pritchard was the speaker, and he set forth his ideas regarding certain "Needed Reforms in Criminal Jurisprudence," advocating the doctrine of restitution. He gave the trusts a thorough "roasting," and expressed liberal ideas, which won considerable applause. A lively discussion followed, in which Lawyers Williams and Gosting, George V. Wells, and several others participated.

I have received a letter from Ralph E. Hoyt, of Los Angeles, stating that he will be with us about April 1, and that he will remain until after the World's Fair. He tells me that he will join the club, and do what he can to help along the good cause. His letter was read to the club, and was received with applause.

Among our visitors on Thursday evening were Mr. Moser, of St. Louis, and Mr. Sawyer, of Minneapolis. If their presence had been known we should have insisted on having them give us a word or two by way of encouragement. Mr. Moser will be with us most of the time for the next year.

KENTUCKY.

Bowling Green.—Ivy H. Teel writes: The people of this section are awakening to the realization that land speculation should be abolished. A bill has been introduced in our State Legislature providing that all credits be assessed without any allowance for debits. This brought out a howl from business men in general, and the Board of Trade of Louisville appointed a committee which employed the best counsel to assist in protesting against the absurd measure. Several fine speeches were made against the bill, and were published in pamphlet form and distributed throughout the state. In those speeches one cannot help but see the outlines of the cat, in such expressions as "The power to tax is the power to destroy;" "Raise our taxes and you will force us to other states," etc.

We single taxers have reasons to be greatly encouraged. The signs of the times even in the South, where we are bothered with race wars and other impediments, show that the leaven is leavening the whole lump. A prominent business man said after reading Tom L. Johnson's speech before the revenue commissioners of Washington, that "it contained more sound doctrine on taxation than the total writings of all known political economists." Hurrah for Tom!

IOWA.

Cedar Rapids.—W. Edwin Brokaw writes: The night of March 17 I spoke on "Practical Taxation" in a school house about four miles south of Cedar Rapids. There was a fair attendance and close attention paid to my talk, after which questions were asked. On the afternoon of March 20 I spoke in the church at Shueyville, to a well-filled house, upon "Public Morality vs. Private Gain." Of course I gave them the ethical side of the single tax, which they drank in for an hour and a quarter with apparent relish, especially the women, who composed nearly half the audience. The volley of questions they fired at me at the close evidenced the surprise with which they had listened to such new and radical ideas. It was probably the first time since the war that the slumbers of some of those villagers had been disturbed by a new idea. The younger men showed fight and challenged us to debate, and it was finally agreed that we debate the single tax question in the Shueyville school house on March 24. That night two buggy-loads of us went down to Shueyville from Mr. Booth's neighborhood, about six miles, over muddy roads, arriving there about 7:30 to find the school house locked. Some one found a window he could open, and we took possession. We sent a messenger to the store to invite "our friends, the enemy," to come and see us. When they got there they had no notion of debating, and wanted me to "lecture." Mr. Booth and I insisted upon the origina programme, and when I said that I would not "lecture" unless they positively refused to debate they came to time. I opened the discussion in a fifteen-minute presentation of the reasons why "all public revenues should be raised by taxes upon land values only," after which each side used alternately from ten to fifteen minutes until 11 o'clock. The usual stock objections, and some very foolish ones, were brought forward. After adjournment quite a number took away a supply of the literature I offered them. The encouraging thing about all this is that a year ago it would have been about impossible to get these people to listen to me at all. "The storm centre is moving Eastward," and the farmers of Eastern Iowa are now waking up.

CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco.—James S. Reynolds writes: The Single Tax Society has unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, Several bills are pending in Congress for ceding the arid Government lands to the several states and territories in which those lands are situated; and

Whereas, Those bills, or some of them, provide for creating a bonded indebtedness, ostensibly to reclaim those arid lands; and

Whereas, There remain in those states and territories millions of acres of productive land, needing no costly reclamation, but held out of use by private owners solely for speculation—an area sufficient to supply all the wants of present and increasing population for generations to come; therefore,

Resolved, By the Single Tax Society of the city and county of San Francisco, in meeting assembled for the discussion of this subject, that there is no need now to reclaim the government arid lands, nor will there be for many years to come; that to do so now would impose upon the people a needless expense, a grievous burden that productive industry is now ill able to bear, and benefiting none but land speculators, contract jobbers and bondholders.

Resolved, That we protest against the passage of any of said bills, or any bill to directly or indirectly cede the government arid lands to any state or territory.

Resolved, That we urge on Congress the abolition of all taxes, duties and tariffs now levied, and the imposition instead thereof of one direct tax on land values, to the end that it may become unprofitable for owners to hold land out of use, thus stimulating enterprise, the employment of labor, the production of wealth, and correspondingly increasing the home market for home products.

Resolved, That the president and secretary are hereby directed to send a copy of these resolutions to each Senator and Representative in Congress from this state, and to every member known to be favorable to the principles of the single tax.

George H. Francouer addressed the meeting on the subject, "Why Are Times Hard," showing the cause to be primarily the misdirection of ground rent from public revenue to private hands, thus on the one hand depleting the resources of the people, and on the other, furnishing the capital with which the "money power" and all minor monopolies oppress industry.

The crusade against "large land-holdings" has broken out afresh. As already stated in The Standard, the Southern Pacific Railroad newspaper at Sacramento has collected facts from a large number of counties bearing on the tendency of land to accumulate in large tracts and in few hands, and

showing some of the evil results. W. H. Mills, Southern Pacific land agent, has recently published a six-column article recounting the facts, and editorial comment thereon, and adding his specific remedies:

First, "Legislation designed to prevent the mortgaging of land as security for the loan of money and the interest thereon," which he thinks would be a death blow at once to the further accumulation of land in large quantities; and second, "Enforced subdivision, after the model of the code Napoleon, to the heirs of descendants."

"But," he adds, "all these limitations and regulations are temporizing at best. I am in favor of a law absolutely prohibiting any man to devise in his will more than 1,000 acres of land, and declaring that any excess of that acreage shall be sold for the benefit of the estate, and in such a way as not to inflict loss, say one-fifth in each year for five years, and that the sales shall be directed by the court."

Following Mills's article, copious extracts from it appeared in other papers all over the State, with editorial comment;—"thoughtful and interesting paper," "thoughtful and exhaustive paper," "able and covers the whole field;"—all as like as two clover leaves, a sure sign of a common origin, and evincing a purpose to raise, by main strength and awkwardness, a false issue on the land question. The object is not far to seek. Immigration to California has come to a standstill, choked to death by land booms and the policy of the railway company of charging "all the traffic will bear." Every county and hamlet in the State has had its land boom, or boomlet, some a bountiful crop, but they are now all in the trough of the sea, business depressed as never before, money a glut in the banks, wages and interest low and tending lower, thousands of willing hands out of work, and nowhere a sign to cheer. Something must be done, and hence these preparations for legislation next winter against large land holdings. And now, as part of the programme, comes C. P. Huntington with an order to "buy large tracts of land, cut them up into small farms, and dispose of them to actual settlers on easy terms." This will be widely advertised in the Eastern States. The purpose is to create a diversion of public attention from the part that the railway company has played in causing the present business depression, and start a new land boom for the whole State.

More trouble to assess "them rich fellows," who deposited several millions at the United States Sub-Treasury just before the date fixed for assessment. The Attorney-General says the money is lawfully assessable. The sub treasurer says he is instructed not to disclose the names of depositors. And the assessor is now considering what he will do about it. When interviewed by THE STANDARD, his chief deputy, Mr. Herzer, said: "Yes, we might question every man in the city, if he has any money on deposit in the sub treasury, but then you know men who would do that to evade taxes, might forget all about it when we ask them."

"Yes, taxing personal property is expensive nonsense; it is all wrong; it is a delusion."

What would be the effect of laying taxes all on land values? "Why, that would cost almost nothing; could all be done right here in the office; we do that now for land values." "Yes, the tax would collect itself. You must believe in the Henry George plan?"

CANADA.

TORONTO.—Robert Tyson writes: The insensible influence upon public opinion of the single tax doctrines in the air is manifesting itself again in the strenuous opposition aroused by the attempt of Colonel Alexander's syndicate to acquire the fee simple of certain marsh lands in Asbridges Bay, opposite Toronto's water front. The syndicate wants to reclaim these lands; and the people, headed by at least two Toronto daily newspapers, say, emphatically: "You may have a lease, but we part with no more city land." Our Trades and Labor Council, in which there are some level, economic heads, has put down both feet on the right side of this question. So have the Nationalists, and, of course, the Single Tax Association. The matter is before the Ontario Legislature Private Bills Committee, which will not let the City Council part with the fee without submitting the question to the people's vote.

SINGLE TAX LETTER WRITERS.

Division A—M. Senn, Enterprise, Kan.
Division B—W. M. Campbell, Autrim, Kan.
Division C—A. F. Allen, Vineland, Kan.
Division D—E. W. Melville, Eudora, Kan.
Division E—Judge W. P. Campbell, Wichita, Kan.

The above are thinking men who recognize the social problem, and would be valuable additions if they could be shown the effectiveness of the single tax.

Divisions F and H—B. O. Aylesworth, president of Drake University, Des Moines, Ia., is inclined to accept Christian socialism, but knows little about our principles.

Division G—Rev. Henry Hopkins, 916 Holmes street, Kansas City, Mo., conducts bi-monthly meetings in his church to discuss political questions.

Division I—Mrs. M. J. Merrick, president Business Women's Association, San Antonio, Tex. This association is intended for mutual aid and improvement.

Division J—E. K. Kane, mayor of Baird, Tex., in a recent address to his fellow citizens, says on the tramp question: "Employ them not, even at greatly reduced prices; feed them not; let them not harbor in outhouses, but drive them off, and we will soon abate an almost intolerable nuisance."

Division K—Sun, of Salem, Va., a paper recently started. From the experience of the corps new papers are very willing to publish clear letters on the single tax.

Division L—Professor G. S. Innis, Hausline, Minn. Writes on taxation for the Farm, Stock, and Home. Recently said in that paper, "No comprehensive work upon taxation exists to-day in the English language," and further on, "the present plan is to tax everything you can find, as much and as long as the people will stand it, and then find something else."

Divisions M and O—Judge H. J. Whitmore, Lincoln, Neb. Has an article on city government in Nebraska State Journal of March 6. He advocates that taxpayers only should vote, male or female, and that improvements benefiting particular localities, should be paid for by general or special assessments. Also that created monopolies should pay for their privileges; but further than this he does not go on the question of taxation.

Division N—James Yuill, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in a paper read before the Edgewood Farmers' Alliance, advocated combination by the farmers as the only means of meeting combinations of capital.

New York, 1674 Broadway. MARIAN DANA MACDANIEL, Secretary.

OBJECT LESSONS.

This department contains facts, gathered from all parts of the world, that are of current interest and permanent value, and illustrate social and political problems. Information from trustworthy sources is solicited.

OLD PARCHMENTS.

In the upper part of the city of New York lies a tract of land which was originally part of what is known as the Apthorpe farm. It is an abandoned highway. Though very small in area this land is worth to-day the comfortable sum of $500,000, which means that any one wanting to use it must pay out of his earnings something like $30,000 a year. In other words, the ownership of this abandoned highway will enable its owner to take from the wealth which other people will in the future produce, enough to enable the owner to live most comfortably without producing anything or doing anything himself. It is not strange, therefore, that a great effort should be made to secure this privilege of a free annual inflow of great wealth. Two decisions affect the question. One holds that when a highway is abandoned the land goes to the persons who own abutting land at the time of abandonment; the other holds that it goes to the heirs of those who were the owners when the highway was laid out. The question at issue in the Apthorpe case is whether the privilege described above shall go to an Apthorpe descendant or to the present owners of abutting land. To the public, however, it makes little difference which of these two sets of claimants secure the privilege, since the public will be obliged in either case to contribute about $30,000 a year, which will increase as demand for that land advances, to people who do nothing to earn it except to hunt up musty parchments, and occupy the time of the courts in overhauling the transactions of generations long since passed away, and with whose affairs we of this time have no more real relations than we have with those of the ancient Egyptians.

WHO PAYS THE FIDDLER?

San Francisco Star.

R. E. Dunn, a civil engineer of Placer County, has lately been investigating land holdings in that county, with reference to their bearing on the irrigation question. In a communication to the Placer Argus he summarizes as follows:

"From this it appears that slightly over one-half the total acreage of the portion of the county considered, about 57 per cent. of the arable part, is owned by seventy-nine proprietors, whose separate holdings are 500 acres or more in extent.

"The assessment of this land is 45 per cent. of the total assessment of the land, and of the improvements not quite 17 per cent. of the total assessment of improvements.

"The small proprietors, 1,076 in number, have 128,035 acres, about 43 per cent. of the total arable area, assessed for 57 per cent. of the total land assessment, and their improvements are assessed at a trifle over 83 per cent. of the whole assessment for improvements."

Thus, without intending it, and for quite a different purpose, the irrigationists have shown that the present system of taxation is so worked as to make the great body of California farmers—as 1,076 to 79—pay seven-tenths of the taxes, though owning less than half the land. Mr. Dunn's article has been widely copied into other papers with comment, so that it is not unreasonable to suppose that some farmers will pause in their clamor for land-loan bills and the national junk shop long enough to figure out if they are not being taxed to support land speculation as well as the public revenue, and also if it makes any difference whether the speculators are citizens or aliens; and also if exempting improvements wouldn't be a good idea.

CHEAP GOODS AND DEAR MEN.

Charles E. Garst.

If high-priced land with high-priced wares make men cheap, reverse the process; make land worth nothing (except rental value), and goods cheap, but men dear—by the single tax.

THE SINGLE TAX PROBLEM.

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Democrat.

This problem has passed beyond the plane of ridicule to which it was exposed when, in its later phases, it first attracted public attention. Earnest, honest men have become its advocates, and it is offered to the world as a panacea for many of the social and economic ills which afflict society. Those who have not studied the subject will be surprised to know how strong are the arguments in its favor.

A TYPICAL INSTANCE.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Times.

Recently the Board of Assessors of San Francisco raised the valuation of a man's property from $4,500 to $8,000. This brought a vigorous protest from the taxpayer. On this, eleven of the prominent citizens of the neighborhood in which the man lived came forward and swore that the property was worth at least $10,000, and offered to purchase it at those figures. The man refused to sell and the valuation was kept at $8,000.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

MANUFACTURES AND MILLIONAIRES.

Mary G. Smith, of Tioga, Pa., in behalf of a neighbor, asks if the single tax would not exempt the great manufacturing establishments, and also men who are worth millions of dollars.

So much of the property of great manufacturing establishments as their proprietors themselves create would indeed be exempt. Is not that just? Why should a large producer be taxed on his product and a small producer go free? So much of their property, however, as they receive from the public—the land of which they have exclusive use—would be taxed according to its value. It is no part of our policy to tax rich men because they are rich. We would tax the special privileges of all men, according to the market value of those privileges.

As to the exemption of men worth millions, if they really earn their millions why should they not be exempt? The man who can actually produce a million dollars' worth of property is a man to be commended, not to be fined. To this, no doubt, the questioner would agree. He would say, however, that it is not to the producers of millions, but to the men who appropriate millions without earning them, that he refers. But a moment's thought will convince him that no man can get a million without earning it, unless he possesses some special privilege under the law. Now, the greatest of all such special privileges is that of owning land which, of common right, belongs no more to one man than to another; and this privilege is not only the greatest, but it is the mother of all others. Abolish it, and no one would be a millionaire unless he deserved to be, and became one without diminishing the comforts of any other man.

Yet, though land ownership is the mother of all injustice, the private possession of land by individuals is necessary to the free production of wealth, and any plan that abolishes ownership must at the same time secure possession. This the single tax would do. It would guarantee undisturbed possession, but upon condition that occupiers pay annual land values into the public treasury. Thus, men would pay taxes according to the value of the land they possessed, and retain as their unquestioned property all that they could produce from it above its value.

THE GOVERNMENT AS A LANDLORD.

George R. Bowell, of Bowling Green, Ky., who says that the single tax is becoming popular among the best citizens of his region, asks if under it the government would not be a landlord on a large scale.

This is a first impression, because it is supposed that the government would take possession of land and rent it to tenants. But that is not the plan. The plan embodies all the benefits of government ownership, such as the application of land values to public use, with none of its objectionable features, such as that to which Mr. Bowell refers—government landlordism. We propose to lay all taxes, not upon land, but upon the value of land. Hence, land without value would pay no tax. If not wanted, it would lie as an open common, free for anybody to use it as he might like. If anyone should want it, he could take possession without leave, license, or deed from either individual or government; or if already in his possession, under a deed or otherwise, he could retain possession of it without tax. But when others wanted the same land, it would have a value; and when that value attached, the tax would apply according to the value.

Nor would this kind of land be only that which is now without value. It would belong to a very superior class. Under existing laws money can be made without labor by simply buying land and holding it in reserve for a rise. This makes land scarce and leaves only that of a very poor kind to be had for nothing. But under the single tax, money could not be made in that way, and land not wanted for use would be abandoned. It is easy to see, therefore, that land which would be open to whoever wanted it would be in all communities and be of a much higher grade, both fertility and location considered, than the best government land to be had now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

——T. Wistar, Brown, Jr., writes from Philadelphia: Many good single taxers are branching off with the proposition to leave a slight selling value to the landlord when their property is assessed, in order to obtain a more correct valuation the next time. They say that if selling value were entirely destroyed there would be no basis on which to determine land value, so as to fix the assessment. They declare, moreover, that by leaving a slight selling value to the landholder the cost of assessment would be cheaper, as then the owner himself would help assess his land by making a selling price which would be a guide to the public authorities.

That this doctrine is wrong there can be no doubt. First, because it is against the fundamental principle that rent of land belongs entirely and of right to the community. Second, because under the single tax no selling price could or ought to exist. Economic rent would remain according to Ricardo's law, and would continue whether people wished it or not. Destroy all selling value and rent will persist.

We have such a habit of thinking first of the selling price of land that we forget the selling price is not the primary value, but is derived from the rental value, present and prospective. When we reach a basis of pure rent we shall run on a natural business law, and although our assessors may not be able to arrive at exact rent in every case, yet with the determination of society to live up to duty and take all the rent, the greed and selfish operations of landlords in speculating with land values will tend to disappear. Rent is all we ask and all we can rightly deal with, and the idea of ascertaining rent by computing first the selling price and then taking rent according to the prevailing rate of interest on money, is like making transportation charges by an estimate of the cost of a railroad.

In leasing a store the owner cannot fix the rent by the interest on what he paid for the property or on the amount he would sell it for. If that could be done there would be small difficulty in finding profitable investment for money.

The more active and regular business is in a community, the more easy will it be to determine the rent of land, because market prices are best made and maintained by steady trade. The best feature of the single tax is the equality it will cause to grow out of uniformly prosperous conditions in trade.

The most damaging institution of the present situation is land monopoly, and so long as any temptation to speculate in land values is left that pernicious institution will thrive. A difference in degree is not what single tax crusaders are contending for; it is to abolish the injustice.

——C. J. Buell writes from St. Anthony Park, Minn.: We are largely free traders here, and there is a feeling that the northwest should take the lead for free trade and direct taxation. I can't quite agree with Mr. Shearman. I think he would find the most radical sentiment in favor of direct taxation right among the western states, where the burden would really be heaviest in proportion to land value, and then the abolition of tariff taxes and the adoption of direct taxes would compel the states to come to the single tax. This in its turn would tend to redistribute population, diminishing that of the large cities and increasing the number in the rural districts, and thus do away with the apparent injustice.

The presence of population being the cause of land value, the adoption of the single tax would soon so readjust things that to tax according to population would come pretty near to the ideal of the single taxer. Apportionment according to population is much simpler than according to land value, and avoids all these difficulties that arise from having different standards of valuation in different counties.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

DOMESTIC.

The New York Bar Association, at an unusually large meeting, adopted a report denouncing the action of Judge Maynard, of the Court of Appeals, when Deputy Attorney-General of New York, in abstracting from the mail of another officer an election return from Dutchess County. The report embodies a resolution, calling upon the Legislature to consider the propriety of removing Judge Maynard from office. It was by means of this act of Maynard that the Democrats gained a majority in the State Senate, for which Governor Hill, who was in collusion with Maynard, was credited with saving the State to his party.

Governor Russell of Massachusetts announces that he is not a candidate for the Presidency, and warmly urges Mr. Cleveland's nomination.

Walt Whitman, the poet, is dead at the age of seventy-three. He was a Democrat in the broadest sense and a poet of remarkable power and insight. His faculty of conveying the elusive moods of nature in prose or verse has, perhaps, never been surpassed.

The proposition to create a speedway in Central Park, New York, provided for by a bill recently passed in the Legislature, has been abandoned in the face of overwhelming public opposition.

Roger Q. Mills has been elected United States Senator from Texas.

Ung Hong, a Chinese, who reached the United States by way of Canada, and who has, by an order of the United States Court, returned to the latter jurisdiction, was excluded by the Canadian officials, and the United States Marshal in charge of Ung Hong was threatened with arrest should he persist in attempting to place Ung Hong within the Canadian line. Ung Hong is now in the United States, and at liberty.

FOREIGN.

Von Caprivi has been persuaded to retain the post of chancellor of the German Empire, but he resigns that of president of the Prussian cabinet, and Count Von Eulenburg takes that post. Hereafter the two offices will be kept separate.

The education bill has been abandoned in the Prussian Landtag. This is a triumph of the Liberals over the administration and the Emperor.

The eight-hour law for miners was defeated in the British House of Commons. Friends of the miners voted against the measure.

An attempt was made on Saturday to kill M. Boulet, public prosecutor of Paris, by blowing up the house in which he lived. The house was wrecked and seven persons were hurt, though Boulet escaped uninjured. The attempt is ascribed to Anarchists, and one of that party affirms that persons prosecuting Anarchists will be followed up with like vengeance.

"FREELAND."

Dr. Theodor Hertzka's book, "Freeland," is the imaginative story of a colony which settled in Central Africa for the purpose of demonstrating, by actual experiment, an economic theory of the author. Some of the ideas of Dr. Hertzka, who is a well-known political economist of Austria, are clear and definite: but in many respects his thought is involved, and it is not without difficulty that his theory can be dug out of the story by means of which he endeavors to expound it. The scheme works admirably—in the story; there is not the slightest friction at any point. But whether it would work at all in actual practice, and why it worked smoothly in the story, are questions which the book does not very clearly answer. We are told plainly enough that no land should be owned either by individuals or the state; that there should not be even exclusive rights of possession, but that any land anywhere in the community should at all times be as free to one person as to another. This principle runs through the narrative. Yet there appears to be no conflict as to possession. It is just at this point that the story is unsatisfactory in a philosophic point of view. The principle is sound, and one which can be put in practice by the simple method of taking the value of differences in land for public use; but in "Freeland" there is no adequate explanation of the absence of conflict.

Production is carried on by voluntary associations, and any one is at liberty to join one or more of these associations and work with it. His membership is wholly in his own discretion. He can be neither rejected nor expelled. And he receives as compensation a proportion of the profits

which is based upon the services he renders to the association, measured in hours' labor. If a member finds that some other association is making greater profits than his own, it is supposed that he will transfer his services to that. Hence, when one association has better natural opportunities than others, caused by greater fertility, better location, or any of the factors that usually give rise to rent, the effect will be apparent in its profits, and it will not be necessary to evict the association, since everybody may join it and share in its good luck. This would equalize differences of opportunity, and rent would take the form of higher wages.

It is doubtful if that would be so; but if it would be, the author loses sight of the effects upon wages of equalizing opportunity; for, blinded by the conditions that surround him, he finds it necessary to establish a communistic scheme (a name which he would scout, however) for distributing capital among the people as they may want it. He is led to do this by a false notion of interest; and his whole scheme is intended, as he explains, to merge interest and rent in wages. In doing that he ignores the fact that, in an effort to divide rent equally, he divides wages without any other relation to service than such as a time-measurement may indicate.

The scheme is a natural development from the tangled economic philosophy of the German schools, and is a fit subject for the study of American worshippers at the shrine of Economic Confusion.

PERSONAL.

James H. Canfield, son of the Rev. Dr. Canfield, formerly of Brooklyn, N. Y., but now of Vermont, was born at Delaware, Ohio, March 18, 1847. Brought up on a New England farm, he prepared for college in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute, and was graduated at Williams' College, Massachusetts, in 1868. Following his graduation he engaged in constructive railroading in Iowa and Minnesota in the years from 1868 to 1871, and having meantime studied law was admitted to the bar at Jackson, Mich., in 1872. After practicing law at St. Joseph, Mich., from 1872 to 1877, during three years of which time he served the city gratuitously as Superintendent of Public Instruction, he was called in 1877 to the State University of Kansas, where he remained in different positions until 1891, when he became chancellor of the University of Nebraska, which place he now holds. Professor Canfield was president of the Kansas State Teachers' Association, was for four years secretary of the National Educational Association and for one year its president, and is the author of an able pamphlet entitled "Taxation; a Plain Talk for Plain People," published by the Putnams of New York, in which he advocates the single tax on land values as the best mode of raising all public revenues.

J. H. Wilkinson, of Woodbury, Penn., is a proof that old age doesn't always mean mental ossification. Though eighty-four years old, he is as alert and active in mind and body as most well preserved men of sixty. Recently persuaded by a friend to read "Progress and Poverty," he became a convert to its teaching. He is a ready and eloquent speaker and an adroit debater, and has already done much good single tax work in that fertile plateau on the Alleghanies known as Morrison's Cove, whose largest village is Woodbury.

The most original, and at the same time most strikingly truthful, political cartoon of the period is the full page drawing in last week's Life, from the artistic pen of W. A. Rogers. It shows the White House in the left distance, with Cleveland striding towards it from the right distance, and in the foreground Hill mounted on a tiger, which, with all its might, is working a tread-mill. The cartoon is entitled: "Great Haste with Little Speed."

H. F. Gardiner, editor of the Hamilton (Canada) Times, recently gave an address before the Young Liberal Club there, in the course of which he showed himself to be strongly in favor of the single tax on land values.

Alfred J. Wolf, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who is explaining the single tax to the readers of the Hebrew Standard, is welcomed by the editor in a flattering editorial.

Miss E. Jean Nelson, of the De Pauw University, who won the prize for oratory in the Indiana contest between Franklin, Wabash and Hanover Colleges, and Butler, Indiana and De Pauw Universities, spoke upon "Industrial Freedom," the point of her argument being that every man has a right to equal opportunities with his fellow man, and no more. Miss Nelson is nineteen years old, and a daughter of one of the most prominent citizens of Putnam County, Indiana.

Ella Maud Frye, editor of The Shoestring, is president of the Hub Amateur Journalists' Club of Boston. Judging from her editorials, Miss Frye, if not a single tax woman, has some of the leading symptoms.

There is another Henry George in the United States. This time his last name is Forsyth. For the present, progress rather than poverty engages his attention, while his field of observation is limited to the New York village of Yonkers.

To a request to sign the single tax petition sent out by Mr. Shriver, the Rev. Henry A. Adams replied as follows: "Enclosed is my heartily signed endorsement. I have come to take a s and in New York for the vital necessity of asserting the Church's relation to the great question of society. Cannot I look for the support of you and yours? I have come to try the experiment of leading a solid, determined body of young men who have 'seen the light,' into the building up of a great catholic, economic parish, which shall, at all events, witness to the facts, that God made things right and that things are decidedly wrong." Mr. Adams ought to succeed on that platform. His church is at Eighty-second street and Park avenue. It is a very large building, of much architectural beauty, and there is an excellent choral service. Four courses of sermons are announced, as follows: Sundays, at 10:30 A. M., "The Larger Life;" Sundays, at 8 P. M., "The Battle of Life;" Wednesdays, at 8 P. M., "Undiscovered and Unobserved Portions of the Prayer-Book;" Fridays, at 8 P. M., "The Silences of God and of Life."

J. R. Markly, president of the Benton County, Ore., Abstract Company, who created such consternation there among speculators through his "Present Owner Book," which raised the assessments on certain lands some $700,000, is vice-president at large of the State Association of Democratic clubs. He is a single taxer.

THE FAILURE OF DEMOCRACY.

Syracuse Industrial Gazette.

The trouble with the Democratic position of tariff reform is that it is half-hearted, and only goes half way. The popular way, the logical way, the just way to reform the tariff is to do away with the tariff altogether. Free trade is the necessity of the country.

OUR CAUSE FOR WAR WITH CHILI.

Judge (Rep.).

Young Mr. Egan was doubtless engaged in an effort to swindle Chili out of several million dollars, and if old Mr. Egan had no knowledge of or interest in the matter he was amazingly obtuse for so able and covetous a man

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

THE STANDARD is a weekly paper of sixteen pages, and is the leading single tax and free trade periodical of the world. Its subscription price is $3.00 a year, payable in advance.

Standard Extension List for 1892.—To introduce THE STANDARD to new readers, the publisher will receive from persons not already subscribers, subscriptions for 1892 at $1.00. This offer is *not for one year*, but for the period from date of receipt of subscription *to the last issue of* 1892.

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CIRCULATION OF "THE STANDARD."

Regular subscriptions received this week	31
Extension " " "	52
Total subscriptions for week ending March 28	83
Unexpired subscriptions	5,407
Sales, etc	715
On hand for future sales	150
Total circulation, issue of March 30	6,355

For the purpose of enabling regular subscribers to see whether or not their respective States are sufficiently represented in the Extension List, we give the list by States. We make no comment; each subscriber may make his own. The list is as follows:

Alabama	6	Mississippi	4
Arkansas	11	Montana	14
California	54	Nebraska	23
Canada	128	New Hampshire	9
Colorado	35	New Jersey	140
Connecticut	68	New Mexico	15
Delaware	12	New York	420
District of Columbia	39	North Carolina	3
England	5	North Dakota	2
Florida	10	Ohio	103
Georgia	9	Oklahoma Territory	1
Illinois	102	Oregon	69
Indiana	21	Pennsylvania	153
Indian Territory	1	Rhode Island	42
Iowa	120	South Dakota	15
Idaho	1	Texas	40
Kansas	32	Tennessee	24
Kentucky	13	Utah	8
Louisiana	9	Vermont	6
Maryland	6	Virginia	14
Massachusetts	151	West Virginia	9
Missouri	73	Wisconsin	18
Maine	40	Washington	46
Minnesota	142	Wyoming	1
Michigan	124		
Mexico	2	Total	2,394

Persons, not now subscribers, who receive this issue of THE STANDARD and wish to subscribe *for the year* 1892, for one dollar, may do so by forwarding the money to THE STANDARD, 42 University place, New York City.

All such subscribers will receive in addition to the paper, his choice from all of Henry George's works in the best paper bound edition.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

WITHIN FOUR WALLS.

ALICE CHITTENDEN.

"All that there is of true happiness in this world," says a writer, "lies within the four walls of the home."

There is no doubt but that the word "home" suggests different ideas to different people. When the costermonger heard some one express the sentiment: "There's no place like home," he said, "And a precious good thing there aint."

To me, the word suggests a little white farmhouse. Not the parlor of that farmhouse, which, like most country parlors in those days, was, I fear, somewhat cold and stiff; but the long, low kitchen, with its wide fireplace, occupied when the autumn came with a big, old-fashioned cook-stove. The woodwork of the room was painted a flat blue—to-day it would be called an "old blue," and would be considered artistic; then, I fear, it was a matter of economy. There was a rag carpet on the floor—one of the good old-fashioned kind—made not only of woolen rags, but of cloth dyed in the wool, the soft hues of which filled my childish soul with delight. Toys and books were scarce, and many an hour did we children spend in finding bits of father's great coat, and Mollie's last year's school dress, and little Ben's first trousers, and that tiny thread of red—we had cut and sewed the rags ourselves—and we well remembered that this was from Teddie's flannel nightgown.

There was a "Boston rocker," cushioned with "curtain calico." We had no esthetic cretonnes then. The dining chairs, I remember, were painted black and had cream-colored rush bottoms. Back against the wall, when not in use, stood the table of solid mahogany, with twisted, spindle legs. The tables of long ago were not attractive, and could be folded as easily as the beds of the present day. Altogether it is my opinion that even Oscar Wilde could have done little to improve my home. You see, the home spirit is quite independent of wealth or luxury.

Still, if all or most of life's happiness is associated with home, it becomes the home-maker to use all her ingenuity and skill in making home attractive. It is as an humble means to this end that this series of articles is written.

The season is at hand when, if ever, a woman's thoughts turn to new furnishings. Fortunately, we live in an age when even a slender purse can buy pretty things; when, in fact, there is no excuse for the ugly and gaudy, whether it be in carpets, wall-papers, or curtains. Much of the cheap furniture, it is true, is hideously inartistic, but even of this there is a choice.

In furnishing a room, the first point is to get the paper and paint right. When these are inharmonious it is absolutely impossible to make a charming apartment. There are pretty papers at ten cents a roll, while at twenty-five cents, the designs are often more artistic than in papers that cost one or more dollars a yard.

In choosing your paper there are a few general rules for guidance that one will do well to remember. You must first consider the use of the room, whether it be dining room, sitting room, parlor or chamber; its size and aspect are also points for consideration. Only the very highest rooms require the wide border running around the bottom of the walls, called a dado; but the fashion of the day demands a border at the top, at least eighteen inches wide. This border, or frieze, should be lighter than the side walls, the ceiling the lightest of all. A side wall of palest rose may have varying shades of blue in the frieze. If the rooms are low, running the frieze half on the side wall and half on the ceiling will give the effect of added height. Between the frieze should be run a molding an inch wide, separating it from the paper on the side of the wall, and serving at the same time to hang pictures from. This molding may be in dull gold, ebony, or any of the natural woods, or of plain pine, stained to represent some wood.

Blue tints, and in a lesser degree, grays and greens, will make narrow rooms look wider; yellow, on the contrary, seems to bring walls nearer together, and for this reason should never be used in a hall unless it is one of the very wide, square kind. Red and its different shades of pinks and terra cottas produce no apparent change in the size of a room.

Where there are many windows, a darker paper may be used than in a room not so well lighted. For the first the new shade of café au lait (which is a misnomer, since the papers shown are more the color of coffee with cream), with a design in lighter and darker tints of the same color, would be restful; for the latter a pale blue or cream ground, with garlands of roses in the Louis XVI. style, in palest rose and blue, would give increased cheerfulness.

Cartridge, or felt papers, in delicate or warm tints, make delightful backgrounds for pictures, while if there are few or no pictures to be hung, a paper in the colonial or classic design furnishes a wall better.

Let the carpet be in the same tones, but darker than the paper, and you have made an artistic beginning.

UNEARNED INCREMENT.

FALSEHOOD AGAINST TRUTH.

Ole O. L'on, *from the Norwegian of Henrik Wergeland.*

Like a martyr, bruised and bleeding,
Truth, assailed, the van is leading.
Stupid is the man whose hand
At a spirit fires a brand.
Purple-colored rays are beaming
From the wounds when blood is streaming.

Lies may win, but conquer—never;
Truth will stand the test forever.
Like a breath of nature's soul
Sets the avalanche to roll—
So a truth the world can shiver,
And humanity deliver.

But it must be loudly spoken;
Friend of Truth, now show your token,
And your banner bravely raise!
Be yourself in every case!
Like Saint Stephen, death-defying,
You must stand when stones are flying.

PARAGRAPHS.

"How does it happen," inquired the stranger, "that all the improvements are being made on this one street?" "It doesn't happen at all, sir," replied the citizen, who was showing him about the village majestically. "This is the street I live on. I am president of the Town Board, sir."—Chicago Tribune.

Accurately and strictly speaking, there is no foundation in nature or in natural law why a set of words on parchment should convey the dominion of land.—Sir William Blackstone.

All the sufferings, against which civilized nations have to struggle, may be referred to the exclusive right of property in the soil as their source.—Professor Zacharie.

"Well, Tommy, how do you get along in your new class?" "Oh, pretty well. I missed in arithmetic to-day, but it was an awful hard question." "Let me hear what the question was." "It was, 'how many chickens had the boy,'" said Tommy, and the sympathizing teacher agreed that it was a puzzler."—Texas Siftings.

When we say that a man is sound we mean that he agrees with us.—Dallas News.

Teacher: "What is the plural of child?" Tommy: "Twins."—The Register.

An acceptable third party movement—leaving the young couple by themselves.—Lowell Courier.

It was a sad instance of vegetable depravity when the first apple tried to destroy the first pair.—Life.

"That young fellow in the yachting cap, is he a yachtsman?" "No; just a salesman."—Indianapolis Journal.

Tom Bigbee: "I say, Upson, what would you do if you had a million?" Upson Downs: "Nothing."—N. Y. Ledger.

Primus: "Is Hemans useful in the church?" Secundus: "Yes; principal object of prayer, I believe."—Kate Field's Washington.

Ancestral Comparisons. — Miss Blewbudd (proudly): "My grandfather was a Virginia Taylour." Newby: "Indeed! Well, to be equally candid, mine was a Jersey City butcher."—Puck.

Under the feudal system the proprietor was the crown, as representing the nation; while the subordinate tenures were held with duties attached to them, and were liable, on non-fulfilment, to forfeiture. Land never was private property in that personal sense in which we speak of a thing as our own, with which we may do so as we please. Land, properly speaking, cannot be owned by any man, it belongs to all the human race.—J. A. Froude.

THE YOUNG SKIPPER.

True Flag.

"Is that the chap we shipped under? Why, he hasn't grown a beard yet!"

"Nevertheless he is the skipper of this craft, and a right smart one, too, as you'll find out if you cruise many months aboard of her."

"That may be, but I'd rather see a man on the quarter deck than a boy."

"What's the difference, if the boy has a man's head on his shoulders? It isn't always those who have lived the longest in this world that know the most, as I have found out. Now, here are you and I: we have been following the sea these twenty years, and I'm not afraid to say that we could handle a vessel in any weather, but if we were asked to take a ship from New Bedford to Cape Horn, do you suppose we could do it? I tell you, Tom, no. That's because, when we were young, we wasted our time in skylarking instead of study. It was different with our skipper, as I know well, for he and I were shipmates together on the voyage that he jumped from before the mast to the quarter deck."

"Don't see how he could do it?" grumbled the one addressed as Tom.

"Well, I'll tell you, mate, when we get below," replied Bill Becket, one of the boat steerers of the whaling ship Grampus, which had just left her home port for a three years' cruise in the Pacific.

"It was this way," began Bill that same evening in the "dog watch" when he and his companion Tom, who was also a boat steerer, were leaning idly over the weather rail, gazing out on the vast expanse of waters over which their vessel was bounding before a fair wind.

"It's little over four years now since I joined the Race Horse down in one of the Kanaka islands. I had run away from another ship and had 'beach-combed' it (nautical parlance for tramp) until I got a chance in the Race Horse. We were going north to cruise in the Ochotsk sea. The skipper was before the mast then; he was a chap that didn't have to see a thing done more than twice before he could do it himself.

"I handled the harpoons in the mate's boat, and little Blue Fin, as we called our cap'n that is now, pulled the bow oar in the same craft. One morning, just a little after daylight, the lookout in the crosstrees raised a school of sperm whales. We had a pretty stiff breeze the night before and the sea was still running high. We lowered away, however, our three boats—mate's, second mate's, and third's."

"'I'll take that fellow up to wind'ard,' called our officer, as he pointed to a big whale that was playing around on the outside of the school, as though he was placed there to protect the cows and calves that were huddled together in the middle from any danger.

"'Look out, Bill,' says the mate to me as he stood grasping the steering oar. 'Look out, man, and don't miss him. There's a good hundred barrels there.'

"'Ay, ay, sir,' said I. 'Lay me on close enough and I'll drive both "irons" into him clear to the beckets.'

"There was no danger but what he'd do it, for the fellow didn't know what it was to be afraid of a whale. I warn't going to take any chances, so I waited till the boat almost touched the big brute, then I let fly both harpoons, one after another, and sung out, 'Stern all.' When the boys were backing so as to give the whale room to play, I went aft to change places with the mate, and he walked forward to his station in the bow to kill the fish with a lance.

"Now this whale was one of those kind of fellows that takes his medicine easy at first, but fights like fury before he h'ists his red flag. He didn't 'sound,' but lay and wallowed for a minute or two, then began to swing 'round so as to get sight of us.

"'He's going to give us a tussel,' called the mate.

"'Ay, ay, he's a fighter,' says I.

"Then I caught sight of Blue Fin's face. All

the other chaps were glancing over their shoulders and beginning to get a little shaky, but he sat on his thwart with his hand grasping the oar, just as quiet and unconcerned as if he were in a skiff on a mill pond, and not within half a cable's length of a mad bull sperm that threatened to send him and his shipmates to Davy Jones' locker at any minute.

"'Stand by to jump,' called the mate. 'He's coming for us.'

"Now you know there is no boat quick enough to get out of the way of a whale when he makes a rush, so the only thing to do is to leave her. The other men sprang to their feet, but the boy still sat there, and I began to think he was paralyzed with fright.

"'Stand up to jump, Blue Fin,' I called. 'And when you go leap straight for the beggar, and not from him.'

"The lad smiled, and nodded his head, and standing up, unshipped his oar from the thole pin, held it ready and faced about.

"Then the whale started.

"'Jump!' yelled the mate.

"The next instant we were all floundering around in the water, while the bull caught the boat in his mouth, crushed it to pieces and sounded.

"The third mate, who had just killed one small chap, was not far away, so he came and picked us up—all but the mate; we never saw him afterward. He must have been fouled in the lines and gone down.

"We got two out of the school, but all hands felt sad at the loss of the officer. I couldn't help telling our skipper how cool Blue Fin was through the whole thing, and when he shoved the officers ahead he rated his own boat steerer third mate and ordered Blue Fin to take charge of the irons in his craft.

"I tell you the boy was proud enough, but he had nerve and good luck, both of which are everything to a whaler. This was destined to be an unfortunate voyage for the After Guards. The whales were plenty in the Ochotsk sea, and there was hardly a day but what we were outing in or trying out blubber.

"One afternoon the cap'n lowered away for a 'right' whale. Our boat was close alongside, but the skipper sung out:

"'Don't you meddle with him, he's my fish.' So, of course, we hung back, only standing by to lend a hand in case we were needed.

"Blue Fin made a pretty dart. He hurled his first iron about 6 feet aft the bow hole, and the other he planted in the belly as the fellow rolled. It was a death blow, but before the whale began to spout blood he brought his flukes around, caught the boat before the boys could back out of the way and stove her to pieces. We pulled in and picked up the crew. I grabbed the 'old man' just as he was going down, and when I hauled him up I saw that he was hurt badly and was unconscious. He was smashed up in a frightful manner and never recovered.

"Next morning at eight bells we launched the dead body of the captain from the starb'd gangway, while the fish that had killed him was moored with chains to the port side of the ship. Poor Blue Fin felt awful bad, and he kept mourning as the mate read the burial service, saying:

"'Oh, if hadn't struck the whale that last blow. 'Twas the second iron that touched his "life," and our captain's, too.'

"'But, shipmate,' went on the boat steerer, 'it was to be, and it's the way of the world, I suppose. One man mounts to a position through the death of another, just as a new ship is built to take the place of a craft that has found a bed on the rocks.'

"'Yes, there's a great deal of truth in what you say, Bill. But how was it that your cap'n's loss rated Blue Fin skipper?'

"He wasn't skipper in every sense of the word, but 'twas this way: The officers that were left were the same as you and I—good sailors and good whalers—but they knew nothing of navigation. Blue Fin, of all our company, was the only one who could handle a quadrant or 'work up a sight.' As I said, the whales were plenty, and we didn't want to leave the grounds till the ice drove us out, for we were making money, so we finished our cruise, and when we reached Honolulu were full to the hatches with oil and bone.

"There was some talk of shipping another man to take the vessel home, but the agent and the American consul said, 'If that young man knew enough to bring the craft safely out of the Ochotsk Sea, he knows enough to find his way to New Bedford.' They just engaged another mate, 'by the run' who was a navigator, and gave the boy charge of the ship.

"We made a quick passage around the Horn, and the owners were so much pleased with Blue Fin that they gave him command of the Race Horse on the next voyage, and while away on that cruise they built him this one here, the Grampus, and that's how the lad became skipper so young. It goes to prove the truth of what I said a few moments ago, that 'It's not always gray hairs which cover the wisest head.' A boy is sometimes more fit to command than a man who has seen twice or thrice his number of years."

THE MYSTERIOUS SKETCH.

Erckmann-Chatrian.

Opposite the chapel of St. Sebald, at Nuremberg, at the corner of the street of the Trabants, stands a little hostelry, narrow and high, the gable indented in steps, the panes dusty, the roof surmounted by a plaster Virgin. In this spot I passed the saddest days of my life.

I had gone to Nuremberg to study the old German masters, but as I had not two cents to rub against each other, I had to take portraits. And such portraits! Fat gossips with cat on knee, aldermen in wigs, burgomasters in three-cocked hats, the whole lit up with ochre and vermilion by the tubeful.

From oils I went down to crayons, and from crayons to the crudest outline portraits.

There is nothing so miserable as to have perpetually a dun of a landlord with compressed lips, a shrill voice, and an impudent air, who comes and tells you every day: "Oh, yes, you'll pay me soon, sir. Do you know how large your bill is? No, that does not bother you. You eat, drink, and sleep quite at ease. The Lord gives food to the little sparrows. Your bill, sir, amounts to two hundred florins and six kreutzer. Hardly worth talking about!"

People who have never heard this ditty sung can form no idea of it. Love of art, imagination, holy enthusiasm for the beautiful, wilt at the breath of such a rogue. You become awkward, timid; all your energy is lost, as well as the feeling of personal dignity, and you take off your hat at a respectful distance to Burgomaster Schneegans.

One night, not having a cent, as usual, and threatened with prison by the worthy Mr. Rap, I resolved to commit bankruptcy by cutting my throat. With this agreeable thought, sitting on my trundle-bed, opposite the window, I gave myself up to a thousand philosophical reflections, more or less enjoyable.

"What is man?" said I to myself; "an omnivorous animal; his jaws, provided with canine teeth, incisors and molars, prove this sufficiently. The canines are made to tear meat; the incisors to eat fruit; the molars to masticate, crush, and triturate animal and vegetable substances, agreeable to the senses of taste and smell. But when there is nothing to masticate, this existence of ours is meaningless; it is a fifth wheel to Nature's coach."

Such were my reflections. I durst not open my razor for fear that the invincible force of my logic should inspire me to make an end of the matter. After having discussed fate and fortune, I blew out my candle and put off the rest till to-morrow.

This abominable Rap had completely demoralized me. As far as art went, I saw nothing but the most wretchedly crude outline portraits, and my sole desire was to have some money in order to free myself from his odious presence. This night, however, a singular revolution took place in me. I awoke about one o'clock. I relit my lamp, and wrapping myself up in an old gray dressing-gown, I threw on my paper a rapid sketch in the Dutch style—something strange, something *bizarre*, which had *no* relation to my usual conceptions.

Imagine a court-yard, gloomy, boxed in by high crumbling walls. In these walls are hooks seven or eight feet above the ground. At the first sight you guess that it is a slaughter-house.

To the left was a trellice of laths; you perceive, through it, an ox cut into quarters, hung from the roof by enormous pulleys. Large pools of blood stream over the flagstones, and run down to unite in a gutter full of shapeless fragments.

The light comes from above, between the chimneys. The chimney pots stand clear cut in a corner of the sky as large as one's hand, and the roofs of the neighboring houses raise a strong scaffold-work of shadows from story to story.

At the far end of this vile hole was a shed; beneath the shed a woodpile; on the woodpile some ladders, some bundles of straw, some coils of rope, a hen-coop, and an old rabbit hutch past service.

How could these heterogeneous details be presented to my imagination? I know not; I had no analogous reminiscences, and yet, each stroke of the pencil, though inspired by the imagination, was real and live. Nothing was lacking.

But at the right, one corner of the sketch remained blank—I knew not how to fill it. There something was stirring, was moving; all at once I saw a foot, a foot sole upwards, clear from the ground. In spite of this improbable position, I followed my inspiration without paying any attention to my own thoughts. This foot was joined to a leg, over which there soon floated the bottom of a dress. In brief, an old woman, tanned, deformed, dishevelled, gradually appeared, doubled over the edge of a well and struggling against a hand which was squeezing her throat.

It was a scene of murder that I had been sketching. The pencil fell from my hand.

This woman in her desperate attitude, doubled over the coping of the well, her face contracted with terror, her two shrivelled hands on the arm of the murderer, horrified me. I durst not look at her. But the man, the person with the arm, him I did not see. It was impossible for me to finish him.

"I am tired," I said to myself, my brow bathed with perspiration; "I have only this figure to do: I will finish to-morrow—that will be easy."

And I went to bed again, quite frightened by my vision. Five minutes afterwards I was in a deep sleep.

Next day I was up at daylight. I had just dressed myself, and was preparing to resume the interrupted work, when two little knocks sounded at the door.

"Come in!"

The door opened. A tall, thin, oldish man, dressed in black, appeared on the threshold. The physiognomy of this man, his close-set eyes, his large nose, like an eagle's beak, surmounted by a wide, bony forehead, gave him a severe aspect. He saluted me gravely.

"M. Christian Venius, the painter?" he said.

"It is I, sir."

He bowed again, adding:

"The Baron Frederick Van Spreckdal."

The appearance in my wretched den of the rich amateur Van Spreckdal, judge of the criminal court, made a vivid impression on me. I could not refrain from casting a furtive glance on my old, mouldy furniture, my damp tapestries, and my dusty floor. I felt myself humiliated by such squalor, but Van Spreckdal seemed to pay no attention to these details, and seating himself before my little table, resumed:

"Master Venius, I have come to—"

But at the same instant his eyes were arrested by the unfinished sketch—he did not end his sentence. I was sitting on the edge of my bed, and the sudden attention which this personage accorded to one of my productions, made my heart beat in a strange manner.

In a minute Van Spreckdal raised his head.

"Are you the author of this sketch?" he said, with eager look.

"Yes, sir."

"What is the price of it?"

"I do not sell my sketches. It is the design for a picture."

"Ah," said he, lifting the paper with the tips of his long, yellow fingers.

He drew an eyeglass from his vest and began to study the sketch in silence.

The sun was then shining obliquely into the garret. Van Spreckdal did not utter a word. His large nose took the shape of a beak, his heavy eyebrows contracted, and his protruding chin made a thousand little wrinkles in his long thin cheeks. The silence was so profound that I

heard distinctly the plaintive buzzing of a fly caught in a spider's web.

"Well, as to the size of this picture, Mr. Venius?" he said, without looking at me.

"Three feet by four."

"The price?"

"Fifty ducats."

Van Spreckdal laid the sketch on the table and drew from his pocket a long green silk purse.

"Fifty ducats," said he, "here they are."

I was thunderstruck, dazzled.

The baron rose, saluted me, and I heard his big cane, with the ivory knob, sounding on each step right down to the bottom of the stairs. Then, awaking from my stupor, I remembered all at once that I had not thanked him, and I flew down the five flights like lightning, but on arriving at the threshold, I looked in vain, right and left; the street was empty.

Well, thought I, this is strange! And I ran up the stairs quite out of breath. [Continued in our next issue.]

THE GIGANTIC KATYDID.

W. C. Morrow in San Francisco Argonaut.

In those days I believed that cotton-tail rabbits had the power of turning themselves into griffins and devouring children who asked for something to eat too often, and that katydids, upon some similar provocation, could suddenly become the devil's horses and bear children away to the infernal regions.

The head-woman of the house-servants was a handsome mulatto, with two children, a boy and a girl. These children had unusual privileges for slaves, and, in a large sense, were companions of my parents' children. Henry, the boy, was just of my age, and we were much together.

Late one summer afternoon we went down the lane and crossed the main road to see some young birds that we knew were in a nest near the "Big Spring." We had just time to make the trip and return for supper. We turned out of the spring path and came to a little glade. Henry stopped and seemed to be in great trouble. I asked him what the matter was, and he explained that his mother had promised him a whipping for stealing some molasses that day. I felt sorry for him, but I knew the whipping was inevitable; still, it made me feel so sad that I lost all interest in the birds, and refused to cross the glade to see them. He tried to persuade me to go, and assured me that he did not care for a little whipping; but all the heart was gone out of me, and I stood still. He went on.

I saw him cross the glade. The nest was a very short distance in the bushes beyond. Just as he disappeared in the brush, I noticed a katydid in the grass at my feet. In an instant it began to grow larger. Then it made a bound in the direction of my companion, and then another, with every leap increasing in size, until, by the time it had crossed the glade, it was a very large horse, red as blood, with a white tail terminating in a glittering barb. I was so choked with fright that I could not give my friend a warning cry. The devil's horse (for such I knew it to be) dashed into the brush, snorting and breathing smoke. It disappeared, but I distinctly heard the boy cry out; then came a crashing noise as the horse tore away through the brush, and then a dead silence.

I remembered no more. Some days had passed, when I found my mother anxiously watching over me in bed. As soon as I was strong enough, they asked me what had become of the boy. The recalling of that frightful scene sent me into wild delirium, and there was trouble to save my life. The subject was not mentioned to me again for a long time after I had recovered; but, in the meantime, I learned that from the time the boy was known to start down the lane in my company, he was never seen; and if he has been heard of to this day, I am not informed of the fact.

THE CONGRESSIONAL FUNERAL.

Detroit Free Press.

On the recent Congressional trip to Chicago from Washington a young man accustomed to hilarity began to weary of the staid decorum of the excursionists and to long for something wild.

"Great Scott," he finally exclaimed to a veteran member, "this is like a funeral train."

"Is it?" said the Congressman with a significant smile. "Well, I guess you don't know much about one of our funeral trains."

HER FIRST CAKE.

Judge.

She measured out the butter with a very solemn air;
The milk and sugar also; and she took the greatest care
To count the eggs correctly and to add a little bit
Of baking powder, which, you know, beginners oft omit.
Then she stirred it all together and she baked it full an hour;
But she never quite forgave herself for leaving out the flour.

DAVID COPPERFIELD'S HOME.

Horace Townsend in New York Herald.

Though all Dickens's books teem with thumb-nail sketches or carefully finished pictures of London bricks and mortar, it is in "David Copperfield" that one finds especial interest in one's self-appointed task of tracing the fast fading away past in the present, for in "David Copperfield" Dickens wrote not only of the scenes of his fiction, but of those of his own childhood, as may clearly be gathered from his letters to Forster, as printed in the "Autobiography." Thus, I walked only the other day down a dingy, out-at-elbows street from which the clatter and crash of the busy High street in the borough could be heard, and took my choice of the many shabby houses which compose it before settling in my own mind which might be the "house of the insolvent court agent, who lived in Lant street, in the borough, where Bob Sawyer lodged many years afterward;" for in this house I am convinced not only did young Charles Dickens lodge, but also David Copperfield.

Both chose this somewhat squalid neighborhood for the same reason, its proximity to the old Marshalsea Prison—namely, where not only the elder Dickens, but also his imaginative double, Mr. Micawber, was confined.

But the Marshalsea, as a place of detention for debtors, has long since passed away. Dickens himself in "Little Dorrit" says, "It is gone now, and the world is none the worse for it;" but one can still find evidences of its being on the map, though hardly perhaps on one of the dimensions of that "Strangers' Map of London," to which reference is made in "Little Dorrit" as being "printed (with a view to pleasant and commodious reference) on pockethandkerchiefs," for Marshalsea place is a very small affair indeed in point of size, but more potent to conjure up memories than many a place of ten times its size.

It is on this spot, surrounded by its dingy tenement houses, that some of the saddest acts of life's drama a generation or two ago were played. The old King's Bench Prison, which used to occupy a position not far from the Marshalsea, vanished from sight half a score of years ago, and in its place are to be found sufficiently modern looking shops and stores which, to the American pilgrim, at least, suggest Eighth avenue or the Bowery. It was of this "place of incarceration on civil progress," as he termed it, that Mr. Micawber soliloquized to David and Traddles.

HOW TO MAKE FARMERS PROSPEROUS.

Orange County (N. Y.) Farmer.

Every acre of untaxed land or of undertaxed land, every town or city lot that is not taxed as high as the land values surrounding it, makes the burden greater on the productive wealth of the workers. A system which thus discriminates in favor of idleness is a blow at industry. * * * Under a system that encourages men to erect buildings and improve their farms or city lots, small industries would spring up all over the land, and the whole country be made more prosperous. The owners of idle lands would be forced to sell them or else to use them and make them productive, and thereby give employment to labor. Where labor is everywhere employed, business is brisk, farmer's produce is in demand, prices are good, money plenty and circulating, and "hard times" cannot exist. Are not these facts apparent to our readers? Do not these facts speak for themselves and tell their own story?

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SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES AT COOPER UNION, NEW YORK, SEPT. 3, 1890.

We assert as our fundamental principle the self-evident truth enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

We hold that all men are equally entitled to the use and enjoyment of what God has created and of what is gained by the general growth and improvement of the community of which they are a part. Therefore, no one should be permitted to hold natural opportunities without a fair return to all for any special privilege thus accorded to him, and that value which the growth and improvement of the community attach to land should be taken for the use of the community.

We hold that each man is entitled to all that his labor produces. Therefore no tax should be levied on the products of labor.

To carry out these principles we are in favor of raising all public revenues for national, state, county and municipal purposes by a single tax upon land values, irrespective of improvements, and of the abolition of all forms of direct and indirect taxation.

Since in all our states we now levy some tax on the value of land, the single tax can be instituted by the simple and easy way of abolishing, one after another all other taxes now levied, and commensurately increasing the tax on land values, until we draw upon that one source for all expenses of government, the revenue being divided between local governments, state governments and the general government, as the revenue rom direct taxes is now divided between the loca and state governments; or, a direct assessment being made by the general government upon the states and paid by them from revenues collected in this manner.

The single tax we propose is not a tax on land, and therefore would not fall on the use of land and become a tax on labor.

It is a tax, not on land, but on the value of land. Thus it would not fall on all land, but only on valuable land, and on that not in proportion to the use made of it, but in proportion to its value—the premium which the user of land must pay to the owner, either in purchase money or rent, for permission to use valuable land. It would thus be a tax, not on the use or improvement of land, but on the ownership of land, taking what would otherwise go to the owner as owner, and not as user.

In assessments under the single tax all values created by individual use or improvement would be excluded and the only value taken into consideration would be the value attaching to the bare land by reason of neighborhood, etc., to be determined by impartial periodical assessments. Thus the farmer would have no more taxes to pay than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who on a city lot erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar lot vacant.

The single tax, in short, would call upon men to contribute to the public revenues, not in proportion to what they produce or accumulate, but in proportion to the value of the natural opportunities they hold. It would compel them to pay just as much for holding land idle as for putting it to its fullest use.

The single tax, therefore, would—

1. Take the weight of taxation off of the agricultural districts where land has little or no value irrespective of improvements, and put it on towns and cities where bare land rises to a value of millions of dollars per acre.

2. Dispense with a multiplicity of taxes and a horde of taxgatherers, simplify government and greatly reduce its cost.

3. Do away with the fraud, corruption and gross inequality inseparable from our present methods o taxation, which allow the rich to escape while they grind the poor. Land cannot be hid or carried off and its value can be ascertained with greater ease and certainty than any other.

4. Give us with all the world as perfect freedom of trade as now exists between the states of our Union.

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thus enabling our people to share, through free exchanges, in all the advantages which nature has given to other countries, or which the peculiar skill of other peoples has enabled them to attain. It would destroy the trusts, monopolies and corruptions which are the outgrowths of the tariff. It would do away with the fines and penalities now levied on anyone who improves a farm, erects a house, builds a machine, or in any way adds to the general stock of wealth. It would leave everyone free to apply labor or expend capital in production or exchange without fine or restriction, and would leave to each the full product of his exertion.

5. It would, on the other hand, by taking for public use that value which attaches to land by reason of the growth and improvement of the community, make the holding of land unprofitable to the mere owner, and profitable only to the user. It would thus make it impossible for speculators and monopolists to hold natural opportunities unused or only half used, and would throw open to labor the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man. It would thus solve the labor problem, do away with involuntary poverty, raise wages in all occupations to the full earnings of labor, make overproduction impossible until all human wants are satisfied, render labor-saving inventions blessings to all and cause such an enormous production and such an equitable distribution of wealth as would give to all comfort, leisure and participation in the advantages of an advancing civilization.

With respect to monopolies other than the monopoly of land, we hold that where free competition becomes impossible, as in telegraphs, railroads, water and gas supplies, etc., such business becomes a proper social function, which should be controlled and managed by and for the whole people concerned, through their proper government, local, state or national, as may be.

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SHARON.—Sharon single tax committee. Chairman, J. J. Ryan.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington single tax league. President, Edwin Gladmon; treas., R. J. Boyd; sec'y, Wm. Geddes, M.D. 1719 G. st., n. w.

IOWA.

BURLINGTON.—Burlington single tax club. First Saturday of each month, 805 North 5th st. Pres., Wilbur, Mosena, 920 Hedge av.; sec. treas., Frank S. Churchill.

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CHICAGO.—Chicago single tax club. Every Thursday evening at 206 La Salle st. Pres., Warren Worth Bailey, 319 Lincoln av; sec., F. W. Irwin, 217 La Salle st., room 735.

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OHIO.

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PENNSYLVANIA.

GERMANTOWN.—Single tax club. Cor. Sec., E. D. Burleigh, 13 Willow av. Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 4653 Main st., at 8 P. M.

PHILADELPHIA.—Single tax society. Meets every Thursday and Sunday at 8 p. m. Social meetings second Tuesday, No. 30 South Broad st. Cor. sec., A. H. Stephenson, 240 Chestnut st.

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